

Public Safety  
APPENDIX

SURVEY RESPONSES  
ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS  
BACKGROUND MATERIALS  
- Letters and Emails

## SURVEY RESPONSES

### How does this topic area impact you?

- The amount of crime and insane driving in New Haven is just incredible. There needs to be a lot more enforcement on the roads and that means more police.
- I work in it
- It affects my family that lives in New Haven.
- It doesn't directly, but I just think people in their communities can get to know the cops who work in their area for community policing.
- I feel that New Haven is safer than most people give it credit for, but the most dangerous thing I experience on a daily basis is nearly getting run over by aggressive drivers.
- I'm fearful of a drug deal gone bad or getting caught in bullet crossfire.
- I have worked in Public Safety for years
- Its PUBLIC safety
- I work in Public Safety
- I was tackled and robbed on the street
- The leadership needs to be better, less corrupt and more honest.
- Keep the community safe
- I'm tired of having to take circuitous routes to avoid going into historically dangerous parts of the city where there is a high crime rate. I'm also tired of crime spilling over into my area as it periodically does. Another aspect of public safety – pedestrian safety – must be addressed. Speed limits throughout the city, especially near all schools, must be lowered. These new limits must be enforced.
- The aggressive driving of so many people in New Haven creates a very unsafe feeling while driving, biking, or walking. The city has a major red light running problem as well. It is getting worse and worse without anything being done about it. People will continue to die if it is not handled ASAP. Also, Westville is a residential neighborhood that is often used as a cut through for people to avoid the traffic on Whalley Ave, Route 34, and the other surrounding streets. They drive through Westville at alarming speeds, blow through stop signs, and don't pay attention to the many people that walk and bike around Westville. There need to be major traffic calming efforts in Westville to prevent this aggressive behavior.
- This is a rising concern in my neighborhood affecting personal safety daily.
- Bike and pedestrian friendly city. I try to ride my bike most days to work, but often feel unsafe. I have been doored twice in New Haven and suffered a concussion. I feel that it is unsafe for my kids to ride bikes downtown without me and even with me.
- Many accidents on Dixwell near Henry St, also on Henry St. Cars not stopping for school busses.
- It affects everyone in the city
- I want to make sure that I am able to wake up and know that I am safe and the security of my family is important. Also, the children need to be safe when they walk to school or wait for the bus to pick them up.
- I am constantly aware of police/community relationships.
- It provides a safe environment for my family and my neighbors to work, live and play.
- It pays my salary

- Rt 80, aka Foxon Blvd, is the heaviest trafficked artery in New Haven and we have constant problems with speeding, loud mufflers, illegal right turns, and drag racing on weekends
- The increase in petty crime in Westville is disconcerting.
- I work at communications
- Neighborhood safety across city
- Speeding
- I feel like I'm going to get shot walking outside
- I am currently employed as a Police Officer.
- The crossings on Cold Spring St. are extremely dangerous – cars drive too quickly and ignore traffic signs. This is especially worrying because we are so close to three different schools and East Rock Park.

What are some suggestions you have for this administration related to this topic area?

- Prioritize fixing the city's sidewalks and curbs - not just in East Rock, but all around New Haven. As a mom, I struggle walking down the street with a stroller, children and the elderly risk falling, and I have personally had \$3k of car damage due to broken city curbs.
- 1. Hold community conversations on what community policing in New Haven is and what should it be. 2. Commit to district managers remaining in a district for at least three years 3. Stop the flow of officers to other communities.
- My suggestions are as follows:
  - 1. More community-based policing. Over the past year the department has become a more reactionary department.
  - 2. Have the officers who work in the same districts knock on doors to introduce themselves to the residents in that district. This way they can establish a rapport with the residents.
  - 3. Instead of all officers on each shift reporting to 1 Union Ave headquarters, report to their substations for roll call to get their orders from their supervisors at the beginning of their shift. This results in better response time if something happens during shift change.
  - 4. Chair and Vice Chair of the commission meet with the Mayor once a month.
  - 5. Encourage an officer to mentor one child from every district in the City.
  - 6. Continue to make the disposition of internal affairs complaints and disciplines transparent to the community by putting the results on the police department website, which we are currently doing. Note: officers names are left out.
  - Just a few suggestions, publicly speaking. I have many more suggestions for internal operations.
- Flashing "no right turn on red sign," like the one on Mitchell Drive, more citations for loud music and mufflers.
- We need more police presence and more neighborhood activism
- Bilingual operators should get higher pay for the special skills they were hired for. They handle more calls than the ordinary operator on a daily basis. Also, their equipment is not nearly at 100%. They are over-worked on A-Squad due to high volume of calls and lack of manpower. They should be able to train and act out box alarms, hazmat alarms, alert 1 alarms, derailments etc. on a monthly basis

- Renegotiate the police contract so that new recruits do not leave after a few years for higher paying jobs. Work with State Coalition to re-engage in discussions about regionalization to reduce public safety and other costs.
- Try some different ways so that the committee feels the City is actually doing something
- Police in areas that actually need them. Decentralization of police.
- The latest NHPD contract went approximately three years and into arbitration before it was finalized between the City and the Police Union. A large amount of senior officers retired and junior officers fled to other police departments as a result, in search of fair pay/benefits. Many officers now have concerns that this will occur again during the next contract negotiation with the City. I would encourage an open line of communication with our Police Union and fair negotiations to occur in the future to prevent this from reoccurring and having another exodus of officers.
- I would love to see more speed bumps/humps on the streets around schools and parks, as well as a proper light at the corner of Livingston and Cold Spring.
- Less pay for administrators, and fewer administrators, to make room in the budget for more police.
- The Heavy Rescue is over-staffed. It currently brings 6 firefighters to a call that, since the inception of Squad 1 & 2, was done by 4 firefighters. The union is trying to turn this Heavy Rescue into a socially exclusive club...The morale amongst the majority of the department is low. The disservice to my City is disheartening. We did not need a Heavy Rescue in our City. We did need an additional ALS unit, which is currently in service.
- I think public safety officers would be nice. Monitors for the downtown area, since the police department can't be everywhere all the time. Plus it gives the City actual eye witnesses to crimes that occur in that area, which is definitely a quality of life issue.
- Have them walk the beat or ride bikes or, if they see people and aren't on a call, get to know people
- Please start enforcement of traffic regulations more stringently. I've seen NHPD watch as I've nearly been run over in a crosswalk and they do nothing. I've seen cars speed down my street at more than 40mph (Pearl Street). It's always a gamble to cross Orange Street at pedestrian walks, and drivers frequently go through red lights, which makes walking unsafe. While I would love to see red light and speed cameras in our city, I understand that having the NHPD ticket more often is much more likely. Please prioritize pedestrians during your administration.
- More police presence, even on quiet streets
- Look into the budget/finances
- Do not ostracize your police department and realize that New Haven, while a great city, is a dangerous city with very real big city problems. Also accountability for those who seemingly take from the city and its different communities.
- To review the need to advance this service and provide the necessary apparatus and tools and attract the paramedics to this department that we can.
- Allow the community to have input on the chief & assistant chief positions. More assistant chief positions should be held by City residents that work in the Police Dept.
- Just not to forget that law enforcement is a core service all residents rely on and that we devote resources to ensure we can hire and retain high quality personnel and that we provide them the best training, including effective community policing.

- Look into who is leading certain areas of departments and put people in place that earned their position on merit rather than politics and other reasons.
- Pay PD and FD more money for the great work they do so they don't leave for other departments
- I think our goal should be to be a zero violent crime city. On the service that seems unrealistic but I think for this type of goal the bar must be as high as possible. I think in addition to regular policing, there need to be many concerned citizens groups to assist, specifically in terms of providing information to police. There need to be more cameras throughout the city.
- The City needs cameras to take pictures of the red light runners and ticket them. The police also need to take action and pull the cars over and ticket them when they see this taking place. Westville needs speed bumps or tables and every intersection should be a 4-way stop sign. There is no reason that cars need to drive fast through a residential neighborhood. East Rock has all of the tools in place already. Why doesn't Westville? It makes no sense. I live on the corner of Alden Ave and Willard St. That corner desperately needs to be a 4-way stop sign. There is constant speeding down Alden, accidents at this intersection, and pedestrians nearly hit all of the time. When I contacted the City to have two stop signs installed they told me they don't have the crash data to support this request and it will "slow the flow of the cars down". Isn't that what we want? The city's response was so appalling my wife and I considered moving out of New Haven. We are fed up.
- Reactivating a city-wide blockwatch coordinating effort. We used to have this decades ago then it was abandoned. It was very helpful to increase community participation in blockwatch formation.
- Convert low traffic sidewalks to dual use bike/walking trails. Make more protected bike lanes in busier areas and commuting routes. Also consider adopting the Idaho stop and promoting the Dutch Reach. Also enforce vehicle traffic infractions more to prevent pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities.
- Speed bumps. Traffic light for Senior Building for them to cross the street, so we don't lose another neighbor.
- Interact civilians with Police to ensure safety on both sides.
- Crowdfund list of most dangerous/impassable intersections for pedestrians, and make priority list to improve conditions
- Officers could do their job much better, if they would have a more cooperative attitude, when they interact with the public. For example downtown and the whole green area should have Officers who transmit a message of responsibility, dedication, righteousness, cooperation, honesty and so on.
- Can you PLEASE do something about the weekend night drag races on Ella Grasso Blvd? They are extremely loud and dangerous! Also, they've been going on since they were brought to light by the media, at the end of the Summer. I cannot believe that something so obvious and dangerous has been allowed to continue as if the racers owned the Blvd!
- Many of our police officers are poached by other towns and cities shortly after graduation. This costs NH taxpayers as it is expensive to put an officer through the training. Would it be possible to have the hiring town/city pay for a graduated amount of

the training if they hire an officer before x amount of time has passed with them serving on the NHPD? For example, if the training costs \$5,000 per officer and they are hired outside the city one year after graduation, the hiring municipality would pay \$4000. If it's after 4 years it would be \$1000. This way NH taxpayers stop paying to train officers for surrounding towns and officers have an incentive to remain on the force for at least 5 years.

- Be strategic in spreading the services for all citizens. The Hill is not the only place to house health services for all.

What is currently being done well that the new administration should encourage and/or strengthen?

- LOVE the multiple layers of communication with city residents. Please keep it up.
- Follow up on neighborhood policing as well as monitoring the health providers' hours of service.
- Currently the means of submitting sidewalk requests is via ward Aldermen. This method is inefficient and assumes responsibility on the citizen. The city should take initiative to assess and triage high impact areas (residential, non-Yale perhaps).
- Continue community policing.
- Currently right now there are many improvements needed.
- Police have done blanket saturation of officers to stop the drag racing
- Someone is getting block watches started again
- The RAC committee seems to be working well and hopefully gets more traction
- The City and Union ultimately agreed on a fair contract that will now make our Police Department comparable to other towns/cities as far as salary and benefits. However, we should offer certified officers the ability to buy a year or two of their previous certified time into the NHPD pension so that we can reclaim some of the experience lost since we now have an accelerated lateral officer program at the NHPD.
- EMS needs to become the main purpose for our City. It is anywhere between 70% - 80% of the call volume.
- Youth programs seem to be going well....hopefully there will be more focus on those programs.
- Continue to get graduation rates to improve since that has been working well the past few years
- The increased visibility of crosswalks has been nice – the signs placed in the middle of the street do shame some drivers into slowing down.
- I'm not sure, rarely do I see police officers on my street
- They finally gave the police department a new contract that will pay them relatively well.
- Community-Based Policing and the Civil Servants involving themselves in public affairs.
- I love the Yale program that pays for college for students with a B average or better. I would urge Yale to extend that to technical and trade schools. I like the Yale homebuyers program. The city should do something similar for city employees who choose to live in New Haven.
- In all honesty, I'm not sure what is being done well. I am born and raised in New Haven and moved away for 14 years, only to come back to a city that is nearly the same, just

with more corporate shops. Coming back to the driving habits in New Haven has been the hardest part of moving home. I love New Haven, but it has major transportation issues that need to be sorted. I felt like I went back in time in this area. Other cities are putting bike lanes down, slowing cars, and adding public transportation. New Haven is still an aggressive car culture city and it is not a good look overall.

- Community Management Team meetings
- Safe streets/complete streets.

Is there a way in which you'd like to help or contribute? Or do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

- I need to know that your administration will always be open to suggestions - that you will always be flexible in searching for solutions and adamant about your dedication to New Haven. I really appreciate what all of you are doing.
- Sign me up! Again, I am sick and tired of the loud, aggressive cars in New Haven. It is to the point that we will be moving out of New Haven if it is not addressed in the near future. Let me know where I can help.
- New Haven needs more roundabouts
- I will work on a local level to rejuvenate my block watch.
- We have a beautiful park that has been in disrepair for a number of years. We also have no commercial establishments such as restaurants, coffee, etc. in our neighborhood. Help us create a community that can meet and group together for common interests
- We are all looking forward to working with you and your administration in the future.
- Set up a hotline to allow citizens to submit pictures or videos of bad drivers to send out tickets. It brings in money and helps clean up the reputation that New Haven is basically a lawless Mad Max city.
- Looking forward to what you can bring to the city Mayor-Elect Elicker!!!! I have high hopes for this new administration.
- What will the administration do to help with pedestrian and biker safety in our city, which is one of the densest small cities in America and thus ready to be made more pedestrian friendly.
- I have reported license plate numbers if I can do safely. More police presence. More officers needed.
- I would like to be involved with the future planning of the Public Safety Services. Police and Fire having transparent Police and Fire Service personnel is very important. and increasing both departments with City-based personnel lends a certain amount of pride to both of the departments.

## ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- We, New Haven City, need speed cameras at certain spots, cross roads, and N Front Road. Not only would these cameras improve safety and cut down noise, they would provide revenue for the city from speeders who endanger others. Many cities across the Country already have done so.
- There should be zero-tolerance to violent crimes. To reduce crime rates, New Haven can learn from New York city (<https://www.nber.org/digest/jan03/w9061.html>). Once crime rates are reduced, tourism will boom, considering New Haven is a city attracting world-wide attention. More companies and start ups will come to New Haven to tap talent pools, and there will be more revenues for the city.
- I also think there should be a massive focus on safer, more pedestrian-friendly streets. New Haven has seen a spike in pedestrian fatalities and accidents, which puts New Haven in a unique spot to be at the forefront of reimagining the way we look at streets. It has been shown to increase customers for local businesses because people actually want to go out and walk around. Think of Boston, who is honestly doing more than most cities to make their streets more pedestrian and bike-friendly.
- End the Drug War in New Haven. Use drug war-police funds for public education budget, bring heroin/opioid deaths to zero.
- Three traffic safety items I hope we push for in Hartford:
  - Red light cameras (even just a Downtown New Haven pilot if people oppose cameras elsewhere)
  - More revenue to municipalities for traffic stops, likely best to raise ticket prices so that the state does not get less.
  - Last year's bill that ran out of time to allow for local control of speeds on municipal roads, so you could lower speeds near schools for example.
- I think it is imperative that we not lay off any of our police force. With the level of crime increasing in our neighborhoods, having those 37 police officers remain on the force is necessary.
- More police patrol and a receptive police answering team



## BACKGROUND MATERIALS

### LETTERS AND EMAILS

**I am reaching out to share some info about resources that are available to support the new Civilian Review Board.** While the CRB was still up for a vote in December, I reached out to my friend James Forman who teaches at the Yale Law School and recently wrote the book "Locking Up Our Own," to ask if he could help us get more information on best practices and procedures for a CRB. He directed me to a friend of his at the CRB in New York City. A few other folks and I had an information gathering phone call with them to learn about how they might be able to help our city. I wanted to share some of that information with you as well. My hope is that we all can create a group of people committed to gathering more information and resources to help the new CRB be as effective and functional as possible.

We spoke with the NYC Director, and then for over an hour with the Senior Advisor to the CCRB in NYC. She was extremely open with information, and willing to have follow up conversations to help our city develop the CRB. Below are a few key pieces of information she shared with us:

1. [NACOLE](#) National Association for Community Oversight of Law Enforcement - is a national group that supports CRB formation and functioning across the country. They can help with things such as: sample bylaws, CRB composition and selection procedures, investigation processes, contacts with CRB in cities that are similar in size and legal dynamics to New Haven, and more.
2. The [NYC CCRB](#) - does coaching and support for groups from around the country and world. They welcome people to observe their process, visit their hearings and share their documents openly. They shared a lot of information about their process for taking a complaint from start to finish and the different avenues it can take and who is involved in the processes. Some [notes from our call with the NYC CCRB are HERE](#)
3. X shared some great info about how NYC has started to have every other month's meeting out in the community so that there are a mix of business meetings at their office location, and community meetings that also function as outreach and listening sessions for different neighborhoods (and for NYC boroughs).
4. X also shared a discipline framework that helps them to have consistency in their assignment of punishments, as well as budgeting info and more.

I wanted to pass this info and these resources on to you all so you would know they are out there. We would like to set up a meeting to discuss the creation of a committee of Alders and community members to collaboratively do this research and think about how to move forward to make the New Haven CRB effective.

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I am writing to encourage you to study and address the problem our city has with loitering in downtown New Haven. I choose my language carefully, as this is not the same thing as panhandling or vagrancy (homelessness). It is far too easy to say we have a “homelessness” problem. Certainly there are people in our community who need assistance acquiring permanent shelter, however, careful study will no doubt reveal that there is much less intersection of the three issues (loitering/panhandling/homelessness) than one would expect. My suspicion is that the number of people who are loitering/panhandling far exceeds (order of magnitude) those who are legitimately without shelter.

I have been a resident of New Haven for 10 years. I walk all over downtown for lunch. Every single day there is a literal party happening inside of and around the bus stops in front of 55 Church Street with loud music blaring, people using drugs openly, and “socializing” with each other, usually amicably but often aggressively shouting and fighting. As far as I can tell, most of these people are simply unemployed long-term and/or with long criminal histories and living a lifestyle that involves leaving their place of residence in the morning, riding the bus into downtown New Haven, perhaps first using the services at the APT clinics, but then returning to the bus stops and the green to score drugs, and carry on for the entire day with the HUNDREDS of other people doing the same thing. Panhandling passersby is just another activity to stay occupied and perhaps score some cash. This behavior goes almost completely unchecked by police and in any case it’s not technically illegal until the open drug use and yelling and fighting commence. People living and working in the city are routinely harassed and even threatened by these people. Visitors from other cities have routinely remarked to me how shocking the situation is and that they felt unsafe in broad daylight.

Importantly, the green is not so much the focal point as are the BUS STOPS. Specifically, the West side of Church Street between Crown Street and Town Hall, the South side of Chapel Street between State and Church, and the North side of Chapel Street adjacent to the green. The bus stops provide 1) an excuse to be on the street 2) brings everyone together from far and wide (people from as far away as Meriden/Bridgeport just wanting to have a “fun” day carousing around New Haven with nothing to do and offering virtually zero legitimate economic activity) into a small and unrestricted public area. These areas are so undesirable as a result that prime retail space goes unused or at best does not realize its rent potential.

An important part of the solution therefore is to remove the bus transfer points from the downtown streets and relocate them to a covered depot adjacent to the train station with a police presence and clear anti-loitering signage and enforcement. Couple this with adequate circulator buses to loop through downtown and the train station. This actually serves two unrelated purposes. First, it reduces the critical mass of people disembarking at an unrestricted location, thereby alleviating the problem I am highlighting here. Secondly, it makes the legitimate use of the bus service by working people more valuable as it is easier to transition from rail to bus, reduces traffic in downtown, and provides a covered and safe location for bus-to-bus transfers. I encourage you to study the issue from several angles: public disturbance, economic impact, and transit optimization.

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I'm reaching out to ask you if there are any plans to address what is becoming an out-of-control crime problem in Westville. While other parts of New Haven have seen decreases in crime, Westville has been consistently targeted for the past two years. There is a major property crime issue, and some significant violent crime as well. It's quickly becoming an unsafe neighborhood.

While we don't pretend that there aren't larger crime issues in New Haven, I moved to Westville because it was known as a safe community and a good place to live, and I feel that Westville has been largely ignored when it comes to policing resources and attention from City Hall.

We've held meetings to address crime, but it's become apparent that what we need are police officers on patrol and a much more significant presence in Westville overall. If this issue is continually ignored, property values will almost certainly decline and a sizable semi-affluent tax base will decrease accordingly.

In addition to police coverage, I believe that investing in Edgewood Park would go a very long way towards increasing property values and revitalizing Westville and adjacent neighborhoods. I have some ideas regarding the what and how that I would be happy to share with you or with your team members.