

**CITY OF NORWALK
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 2, 2026
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

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Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Sabrina Godeski at sgodeski@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Goldstein called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Chair Goldstein called the Roll: Josh Goldstein, Anne Wennerstrand, Jim Frayer, Jan Degenshein, Jalin Sead, Darlene Young (7:00 p.m.)

At Roll Call there were five (5) Committee members present, constituting a quorum. Darlene Young arrived at 7:00 p.m. Nicole Ayers was absent.

ATTENDANCE: Josh Goldstein; Chair, Jan Degenshein; Vice-Chair, Jim Frayer, Anne Wennerstrand, Jalin Sead, Darlene Young (7:00 p.m.)

STAFF: Sabrina Godeski, Jay Habansky, Tom Ellis, Jared Schmitt, Brian Lutz, Garrett

Bolella, James Travers, Alan Lo, Fire Chief McCabe, Timothy Reardon, Marc Conte, Police Chief Walsh, Brian Bidolli, Steve Kleppin, Joyce Liu, Lunda Asmani
OTHERS: Councilmember Richard Dellinger, Councilmember Johan Lopez

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Lauricella thanked everyone for the sidewalk work, curbs and crosswalks that were done. She thinks that the new sidewalks, curbs and crosswalks would really make a difference in their health, as well as attractiveness and safety in their city. She still has not seen a proper evaluation up front of renewable energy. Ms. Lauricella said she is in the business of assigning green measures to building and land use. She is happy about the three-season pavilion except she thinks that they are not looking at it upfront as a net zero energy building. She is concerned about the camp and feels that this should be a project for renewable energy. She said the excuses that have been given are predictable. She wants to change the trajectory on the use of renewable energy in the city. She would like to have a ban on artificial athletic turf fields because it is a safety issue. She said that she knows they are not optimizing renewables and did not appreciate being scolded by a council member.

Susanne Giannitti is a member of the ADA Transition Committee. She has been a Norwalk resident for over 20 years. She is concerned about the elimination of the ADA capital budget for fiscal year 2026/27. While she understands budget constraints, accessibility and compliance are not optional but in fact required. This is the first time since 2013 that this budget has been fully eliminated. There is a difference between reducing and eliminating a budget. Once it is eliminated, progress towards accessibility stops and it becomes very difficult to bring it back. The city is preparing to release a new ADA Transition Plan, that is federally required to make public, eliminating this budget will send a concerning message about the city's commitment to accessibility. She highlighted a critical priority project at the Norwalk Senior Center stating that the courtyard will be renovated but the primary access remains stairs only. There is also an outdated double door that is extremely difficult to navigate especially for those with mobile devices. She explained that the doors come to a small platform that becomes a dead end for those users. She said that is a life safety concern because in an emergency, individuals could be directed to an exit that is not accessible. That could potentially trap them there and block egress for others. The alternative route is to travel for a long distance through the building then outside or on uneven surfaces to reach the courtyard. A public space is only inclusive as it is accessible. The proposed ramp and door improvements are not enhancements they are necessary for safety, compliance and equity. She encourages the reinstatement of the ADA capital budget or at a minimum to fund this critical project. She had submitted a letter to this.

Diane CeCe made a request asking the Chair to give a 15-second overview of the role of the committee in terms of the capital budget. She then asked about the voting

procedure and the advancement to council. She inquired about the police department's request for equipment, specifically an armored car. She doesn't think there is a need for this. She suggested sharing this type of equipment with surrounding towns. She stated any requests for IT and Code Enforcement should be approved. Business Development and Tourism funding should be attracting new businesses in the hopes of creating jobs. Funding should go to the people who are here now versus a transition group of people that come in as tourism. Tourism should be prudent.

Chair Goldstein closed the public participation at 6:13p.m.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, BARBARA C. SMYTH, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH FOUND DESIGN LLC (D.B.A. MERJE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$114,750 FOR PROJECT NPA2026-1: NORWALK CITYWIDE WAYFINDING PROGRAM.

ACCT(S): 0921-4095-5777-C0783
0922-4095-5777-C0783

Mr. Lutz reported they issued an RFP in January for a comprehensive citywide wayfinding program. The goal was to identify a qualified design team capable of creating a unified modern system that improves navigation, strengthens district identity and better supports both residents and visitors as they move throughout Norwalk. This is the design and planning phase of the project. He gave a brief background. He said the parking-related wayfinding components would be separated in this RFP. The modern wayfinding system would make it easier for people to navigate the city and reduce traffic congestion caused by drivers searching for destinations, supporting tourism and local businesses. Those efforts would improve connectivity by better linking rail stations, trails, downtown corridors, and major destinations. The design will be fully funded by the Parking Authority. There will be digital kiosks and pedestrian signs in strategic locations.

****MR. SEAD MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. 1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, BARBARA C. SMYTH TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE FUSS AND O'NEILL CONTRACT BY \$46,900 FOR ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING AND RELATED DESIGN SERVICES FOR WALL STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS.

2. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY AND PARKING TO EXECUTE THE AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT WITH FUSS

AND O'NEILL, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,690.

ACCT(S): 0926 3750 5777 C0800
0926 3750 5777 C0824

Mr. Bolella shared his screen and gave an update on the Wall Street Corridor Project. He went through the first phase of the project with the committee. They should be completed with phase one by the end of summer. Isaac Street, which is part of the Wall Street Place Development, is currently being enhanced. They are continuing the Yankee Doodle Garage Façade Improvements. There are also some wayfinding elements that are being completed. The next phase of the Wall Street Corridor improvements, which have largely been improvements to Bunell Boulevard around the transit district hub and improvements on Main Street. These are full roadway construction improvements. He said they received recommendations from DOT to ensure they recoup the \$5.5 million in federal funding, they asked them to expand the scope of this phase to include Belden Avenue. They want to take all the concept-level work for Belden Avenue and bring it up to a final design level. They would like to go out to bid this summer and be under contract this fall. They received an \$800,000.00 grant for East Wall Street. This proposal is for a minor addition to the design contract to include an advanced earliest section of Belden Avenue and for some assistance with bidding services so they can be responsive to state and federal partners. All questions were answered.

****MR. DEGENSHEIN MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. REVIEW AND PRESENTATION OF THE 2026-2027 CAPITAL BUDGET.

[HTTPS://WWW.NORWALKCT.GOV/DOCUMENTCENTER/VIEW/38587/FYE-2027-CAPITAL-PROJECT-REQUEST-DETAILS](https://www.norwalkct.gov/documentcenter/view/38587/fye-2027-capital-project-request-details)

Chair Goldstein went through a couple of ground rules and explained the process for the capital budget and charter. The Economic and Community Development Committee is required to vote on the capital budget by a certain time. They will be voting to forward the capital budget to the full council.

1. PARKING AUTHORITY

Mr. Lutz presented the Parking Authority's capital budget items. He stated they are requesting \$1,225,000.00 for critical structure repairs for the Maritime and South Norwalk Train Station Garages. Both facilities are fully exposed to the elements and experience heavy daily use. He said that targeted reinvestment is essential to maintain the garages in a state of good repair and ensure long-term safety. There are critical repairs needed based on their latest conditions assessment finalized in January. The critical repairs include concrete repairs, joint replacement, drainage improvements and

additional structural-related items.

2.

POLICE

Chief Walsh presented their capital budget requests. The first request is for traditional police cars and vans. This is standard purchasing to upkeep the maintenance of the fleet. The second request is for evidence processing hardware, which is their forensic computer system that is used out of the forensic and special victims' unit. It is a computer-based system used to examine cell phones and other information regarding child porn investigations, and critical searches of hard drives and servers. That equipment needs to be updated every few years. The third item is a communication network for the scuba team. This is a system which gets integrated into their head unit so they can communicate underwater and to the shore. The next item is for body armor that is worn by the SWAT team. Every 5 years, body armor needs to be replaced. The next item is for ground improvements. The building is 21 years old. Their gate system is currently failing. They have experienced damage to police and civilian cars because the gate closes without warning. The last item is for the replacement of firearms for the emergency services unit. The current weaponry is over 20 years old. The reliability of the weapon of that age and usage is questionable.

Mr. Schmitt explained the excess 911 Dispatch Bond Proceeds and how they will be used.

3. **FIRE**

Chief McCabe presented the Fire Department's capital budget request. He said it is about ensuring that they have reliable and safe apparatus, equipment and facilities. The first request is for an apparatus replacement plan to replace one (1) engine. This replacement will allow a current frontline fire engine to move to reserve status and a 2002 to be removed from service. They have four (4) requests that will be funded out the surplus funds from 911 Dispatch. The second request is for station exhaust system replacement. This would replace and upgrade the fire apparatus exhaust capture systems serving all five (5) stations and the apparatus maintenance facility. He said the current system is over 20 years old and requires expensive repairs and modifications on a regular basis. The current system does not treat all bays, and the new system will meet OSHA's requirements and will enhance firefighter health and workplace safety. The third item is for apparatus refurbishment and upgrade. This project will refurbish and upgrade their military surplus high-water truck so it can be safely and effectively used during evacuations and storm events. The fourth item is for administrative vehicle replacement. The administrative vehicle is used daily and carries a full complement of firefighting and EMS gear as the chiefs respond to structure fires as safety officers and command staff. The final request is for fire department building repairs for all five (5) stations, apparatus maintenance facility and training tower.

Mr. Schmitt added that there are a number of items that will be funded out of the remaining funds from the 911 Dispatch account. The building repair item is being funded out of the bond premium with the intention of ultimately landing in their operating budget in a future year.

4. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Liu presented the Information Technology's capital budget. There are four (4) requests. The first item is for a citywide technology refresh. The technology refresh will cover over 30 departments in 14 different locations, and the funding will be used to replace the aging equipment. This includes upgrading the public computers and maintaining the public Wi-Fi as well. The second item is for refreshing the mobile data terminal in police patrol cars. They are going to equip 10 cars with mobile devices, software, license and mobile printers. This will allow officers to access the information in real time and work more efficiently while in the field. The third item is cybersecurity enhancement. This request focuses on strengthening their cybersecurity capabilities. They are looking to implement a managed detection and response solution so they can continue to monitor their system, detect threats and quickly respond to potential incidents. The last one is for fiber extension for the Senior Center. The goal is to bring fiber internet to all city buildings. The senior center has a park and rec offices, senior center, daycare services and security cameras that are managed by building management. All of those things need a reliable network. Their overall goal is to improve digital access, support modern programs and service for senior residents.

5. MANAGEMENT AND BUDGETS

Mr. Schmitt explained the changes to the budget book. They implemented a new system called ClearGov. The first phase of it was just for the budget books. It has been close to a year since the implementation. The next phase is to purchase the operating budget module from ClearGov. This will cover the full budget cycle process where the department heads can enter their information. It will store all the data and can track each of the different versions from the original requests from the departments to anything that comes after. This system will allow them to do things more cleanly, efficiently and be a more professional-looking product.

Mr. Frayer asked if the new system would be able to facilitate forecasting, year-to-date budget analysis, budget versus actual performance reviews.

Mr. Schmitt answered there will be some efforts on the analysis side to combine systems. The information that goes into ClearGov will still be in Munis.

6. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Asmani presented the capital budget request for the Board of Education. The first request is for the installation of vestibules for two (2) of the schools and some fencing work for three (3) other schools. The second request is for curriculum and textbooks. The district has developed a K-12 Literacy Vision Plan. This would be the second year of implementation for grade 6 through grade 12. The third item is for student technology. Those funds will be dedicated toward the replacement of devices for students. The purchases are for Chromebooks, iPads, desktops for classrooms. The district has also begun the process of updating the science and social studies curriculum. Band instruments are another item request. Many of the band's instruments are over 20 years old, and they have been replacing them at different levels for the past three (3) years. Instructional technology focuses on staff. This request is for all the computers and smart boards for staff. It also includes database upgrades and instructional tools. They also have an asbestos abatement program. They are planning to abate the asbestos from Naramake School. They have been doing one (1) school a year. Capital repairs and replacement is an annual repair for miscellaneous things within the building. They are working on paving Brien McMahon, and they are asking to begin the study for the parking lot. The current parking lot does not meet current traffic needs and flow. The district vehicle replacement item is to replace the 20-year-old vehicle with a plow. This vehicle primarily serves the Brien McMahon campus.

Mr. Lo stated that they have been working on the construction of the new Norwalk High School for a year and a half. The school was last upgraded in 2005, 2006. He gave a brief background on the last upgrade. They continued to receive requests for upgrades after that. The building was built in 1972 and with all the upgrades done, the school was still not at the level that's necessary to get the school to the latest standard of high school in the community. Traditionally, the city will get 22% reimbursement from the state. As part of this project, the city received special legislation for 80% reimbursement. The special legislation was approved approximately two (2) years ago. He explained the phases of this project and said that it would be a multi-year project. They have scheduled a tour for the city council next week. The building construction is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2027, and the students will move into the new building. The day after, they will tear down the existing building and reconstruct the whole athletic facility in the front of the building by fall of 2028. Due to the length of time it will take for the project, there were things that they did not bid out, so they are requesting additional funds to complete the project. He explained those expenditures and the need for additional funds. He said they are potentially eligible for 80% reimbursement for the balance of the money. About \$16 million will come from the state through reimbursement. The additional fund request is for \$22 million with a possible 80% reimbursement. Councilmember Lopez asked if the additional fund request is because the project went over budget. Mr. Lo stated there were numerous reasons and gave him an explanation. A discussion ensued about the funding for this project.

7. REDEVELOPMENT

Mr. Bidolli presented a capital budget request for \$500,000 in local matching funds to secure the \$14 million raise grant they were awarded through USDOT. The project is to make operation and safety improvements along two (2) miles of MLK from North Main to Wilson Avenue and enhance transportation access and mobility around the South Norwalk Train Station. He said they need to have adequate matching funds allocated before executing the grant agreement. They expect to start design and outreach work next year, and they will be advancing the project to permitting and construction from there.

8. CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Habansky presented the streetscape improvement capital request. This is part of a three (3) year contract that was signed by Code Enforcement with Love Your Home last year as part of the capital budget request. He stated that this project includes plantings throughout the city, planters around the Maritime, cleaning up medians throughout the city, and putting up holiday decorations along Washington and Wall Street. This is a continuation of year two (2) of the three (3) contract with Love Your Home.

9. PLANNING AND ZONING

Mr. Kleppin presented two (2) capital budget requests. The Open Space fund is an annual request they put in for \$50,000.00 for properties that might come up that the city might want to acquire for open space or something similar. The second item is document scanning. They have been document scanning for the last couple of years and that is related to two (2) initiatives, field cards and building permits. They have scanned the field cards for the years 1929, 1959, 1971, and 1983. Those cards are all scanned, totaling over 90,000 records, averaging 5 pages per record. They are scanning building permits and eventually zoning permits, and have done the years 1923 through 1986, about 54,000 records averaging about 17 pages per record. They have also scanned large plan sets, about 2,000 records averaging 20 pages per record. He explained how many records there are for the 1990s, and it may take a few years to complete. Once that is done, they will begin scanning the zoning permits.

10. TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY, AND PARKING

Mr. Travers presented their capital budget requests. Their first request is for roadway design and reconstruction. He explained the project on Ward Street. County at William Street by the high school, there are concerns in that area. They want to make a sidewalk connection from Grumman to Cranberry Park. New sidewalk construction project on Lexington Avenue, Chestnut Hill, and there will be a public meeting on Silvermine Avenue and Winfield Street. There is a sidewalk gap on Taylor Avenue, and it may need a retaining wall. They will be applying for grants as well. A new traffic signal is needed for the new high school; off-site improvements are not covered by the grant,

so they would have to cover the costs. He discussed the requests for traffic system enhancements. He answered all questions the committee had.

Mr. Bolella added that this year's request is largely a match to that community connectivity funding that they secured at the end of last year to finish East Wall St to Town Green to improve streetscape, lighting and multimodal bike lanes. Some of the additional funding requested is to advance designs beyond phases 2a and 2b and start planning for phase 3. Most of that funding will go to advance the designs, which are at 60% for that project. Some funding will be to maintain the roadways they are not able to get to until the latter phases of the project. He said they want to make some improvements on Wilson Avenue along the Safe routes to schools. They want to look at an intersection study at Roton school. He explained how that would work. Sidewalk enhancements throughout the whole corridor. He talked about sidewalks on Lennox, Auburn and Noah Lot Lane.

Mr. Schmitt thanked Mr. Travers and his team for reducing their budget significantly. He stated that Mr. Travers and Ms. Valadares were the most impacted by the budget reductions. He said they were great and cooperative to work with, and he appreciated that. He explained the process of budget reductions.

11. ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION

Ms. Godeski presented the capital budget requests for Arts & Cultural Commission. The first request is the Arts in Public Places Program. The request is for \$150,000.00 a year. This funding is used to keep investing in the arts in Norwalk. They still have \$150,000 from last year's unspent due to a delay in projects which delayed the Route 1 corridor underpass. That project will be done in the upcoming fiscal year. They have an item for signage. Public art inventory is their second request. They have over 80,000 pieces of art but do not have a comprehensive inventory of those pieces. The comprehensive inventory should take about 12 to 16 months and that entails finding, digitizing and evaluating the pieces. The art pieces that are insured are the ones in the public realm, like mostly sculptures or outdoor pieces. Ms. Godeski named the places where some of the art is located. She said, Mr. Westmoreland knows where most of the art is located and what we have. Building management also knows where most of the art is located.

Mr. Habansky added that Norwalk has the largest arts and cultural district in the state of Connecticut. He said if they think the value of the art inventory is there, this could be one of the crown jewels on these arts and district trail and serve as the backbone for this. The timing is perfect to execute a project like this. He said without the inventory, they would always ask questions, so this will allow them to get a baseline to make more strategic decisions going forward.

12. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Ms. Godeski presented the capital budget items. The first request is for special events. Half of those funds will go to a sound stage and lighting contract. That contract went out to bid, and they are in its second year out of a three (3) year contract. A quarter of the funds will be paid for parks, police officers and DPW. 20% will go to actual performers, attractions, and activities that they have at the actual events. The last 5% will go to EMS costs. They are expecting the same in-kind donations from their partners going forward which they depend on helping to keep their budget lower. She said this is a major pivotal point, including their marketing, which is in their operating budget that promotes tourism and brings people to Norwalk and supports their businesses. They compiled a complete analysis for the board of estimate and taxation on received dollars and economic impact. The analysis essentially reads that they are making a profit, not in an actual dollar amount, but by the economic impact on all the things that they are doing versus what they are requesting to do. The second request is for the Small Business and Main Street Program. Those funds will be used for the storefront improvement program and their innovations program for new business in the city. She explained those programs. They are going to receive a \$1 million grant, a SIF grant, from the State of Connecticut, that is specifically for storefront programs on Washington Street.

D. ADVANCE THE 2026-2027 CAPITAL BUDGET TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL WITH THE NOTED AMENDMENTS.

Ms. Young thanked everyone for their hard work and the hard decisions they had to make during this budget process.

Mr. Schmitt addressed the ADA funding. He stated that the original request was for \$480,000.00 and after requesting all departments to reduce their budget, the request came back as a \$144,000.00 reduction which brings it to \$336,000.00. He doesn't have an explanation as to why it ended up being eliminated in the final version, his version and the mayor's proposal but the funding will be restored to \$336,000.00 for ADA funding.

Ms. Wennerstrand asked if they knew what the breakdown would be for the \$336,000.00.

Ms. Godeski stated that the breakdown is in the letter she sent to the committee from the chair of the ADA committee.

Chair Goldstein stated that they will work with council to make sure it is done appropriately. He said that there will be a revised request for the \$336,000.00. He

explained the line item in the historical commission budget for repairs of the Lockwood Mansion. The mayor's recommendation is \$1.5 million, but the adequate amount needed is \$1.25 million. He said they would make a motion to reduce the capital budget for that item by \$250,000.00. He said that Mr. Frayer suggested reallocating the \$250,000.00 to ADA. A discussion ensued about having a conversation with Community Services. They decided to make the amendments at the full council meeting.

Mr. Schmitt shared his screen and explained the debt waterfall and fund balance to the committee.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED TO ADVANCE THE CAPITAL BUDGET WITH DISCUSSED AMENDMENTS TO FULL COUNCIL
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Young moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Letter to Members of the Economic and Community Development Department and City Council

Submitted by: **Susanne Giannitti**

Dear Members of the Economic and Community Development Department and City Council,

As members of the ADA Transition Committee, we were informed at our April 1 meeting that the proposed ADA capital budget for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 has been eliminated. While we recognize the need for fiscal constraints, accessibility and compliance are not optional obligations and should not be deferred.

This marks the first time since the ADA capital budget's inception in 2013 that it has been fully eliminated. There is a significant difference between making reductions and eliminating a budget entirely. Once removed, it becomes exceedingly difficult to restore, placing long-term progress at serious risk.

Although there are projects currently underway, we will soon reach a point where no further progress is being made. Prior administrations made meaningful and public commitments to inclusion for people with disabilities. The elimination of this budget signals a departure from that commitment and raises concern about the City's ongoing dedication to accessibility.

We respectfully urge you to reconsider, at minimum, one critical priority project: the Norwalk Senior Center (\$150,000).

The courtyard is scheduled for reconstruction, supported by a \$70,000 investment, yet its primary access remains stairs only. Two sets of outdated double doors further restrict access for individuals using mobility devices—including wheelchairs, scooters, rollators, walkers, and canes—used by a significant portion of the Center's population. These doors lead to a small platform at the top of the stairs, effectively creating a dead end for those users.

This is not only exclusionary—it creates a clear life-safety and liability concern. In the event of an emergency, individuals could be directed to an exit that does not provide an accessible route to safety, potentially trapping occupants and impeding egress for all. This concern is heightened by the population served, many of whom have mobility and cognitive impairments.

The only alternative accessible route requires individuals to travel a significant distance through the building, exit into the parking lot, and navigate an uneven exterior pathway to reach the courtyard. Expecting individuals with physical and cognitive challenges to use this route is not reasonable and does not meet the standards we are obligated to uphold.

Additionally, the Family & Children's Agency at the Benjamin Franklin Community Center is a critical community resource and is effectively being overlooked through the

elimination of the budget, despite clear and documented accessibility and safety requirements.

The City of Norwalk is also preparing to release an updated ADA Transition Plan, which we are federally required to make publicly available. This plan will outline the City's obligations and expected commitment to ongoing accessibility improvements.

Eliminating the ADA capital budget at this time sends a contradictory and concerning message that the City is not prioritizing these responsibilities.

A public space is only as inclusive as its accessibility. When individuals using mobility devices cannot reach the courtyard at the Norwalk Senior Center, the space is, in practice, not public for all. The proposed ramp and door improvements are not enhancements—they are necessary to meet ADA requirements, ensure safety, and provide equitable access.

We strongly urge the City to reinstate funding for the ADA capital budget, and at minimum, prioritize the Norwalk Senior Center project to address immediate safety, compliance, and equity concerns.

Thank you for your thoughtful reconsideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Giannitti

On behalf of the ADA Transition Committee