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Fish Stark Garners Support from Alders

New Haven — As of July 31, four current members of the Board of Alders and one former Alder have publicly endorsed Fish Stark's campaign for Ward 1 Alder. Stark has received endorsements from Ward 21 Alder Brenda Foskey-Cyrus, Ward 10 Alder Anna Festa, Ward 12 Alder Richard Spears, Ward 30 Alder Carlton Staggers and former Ward 10 Alder Justin Elicker.

"I'm grateful to have endorsements from these progressive community leaders," Stark said. "It's really great to see support building for my campaign across many parts of the city."

The alders endorsing Stark's campaign represent a variety of neighborhoods across New Haven, including East Rock, West Rock, Newhallville and Bishop Woods.

"These endorsements speak to the breadth and depth of Fish's involvement and commitment in New Haven. They demonstrate that Fish knows New Haven and New Haven trusts Fish," said Sergio Lopez, Stark's campaign manager. "This is a really unprecedented level of support for a Ward 1 race and speaks to the heart of what Fish wants to do — connect Yale students with New Haven."

The alders who have endorsed Stark cited his youth agenda and commitment to building the relationship between Yale students and the city as reasons for supporting his campaign.

"I care deeply about my neighborhood, and I know that Fish does too. His work with youth and his deep understanding of our city will make him a strong voice for all neighborhoods on the Board," said Foskey-Cyrus. "I look forward to working with him to create more opportunities for youth, to create new jobs for New Haveners, and to promote community policing. I am proud to endorse him for Ward 1 Alder."

Alder Foskey-Cyrus also sits on the Joint Human Services and Safety Committee in New Haven and publicly supported Toni Harp's mayoral campaign in 2013.

"As an alder for an often-neglected part of the city, I have fought to make sure that all of our under-served neighborhoods in New Haven get their due. In our community, there is a tremendous need to provide resources for our young people and to make sure that everyone has access to a good job," Spears said. "Fish Stark shares that goal. Fish knows that the key to New Haven's future is listening to the needs of our neighborhoods, and working hard to ensure that youth have access to after-school and enrichment programs, job training, and are prepared for college, and that all New Haven residents can earn a living wage. I enthusiastically endorse Fish

for Ward 1 Alder, and look forward to working with him on the Board."

"I have worked with Fish on campaigns in New Haven and have been impressed with his enthusiasm for the city of New Haven and for getting involved so quickly with New Haven politics and the community," Festa said. "His tenacity to bridge the gap between Yale students and New Haven is evident in what he has already done on and off campus. A stronger community can and will be built between Yale and our New Haven community with Fish and that is why I am supporting him for Ward 1 Alder."

"As a parent, coach, and member of the Youth Committee, I trust Fish to be the strongest possible advocate for kids in my neighborhood and across our city. He has worked in our communities as a teacher and an organizer. He has the right progressive values and a real understanding of New Haven. And he has my trust and support to be the next Ward 1 Alder," Stagers said.

"We need more people like Fish Stark involved in politics. He is honest, hard-working and independent-minded. He demonstrates a deep understanding of New Haven, and his experiences working with people from every part of New Haven will make him a thoughtful advocate for practical, progressive policies that make our city a better place for all residents. I strongly support Fish for Ward 1 Alder," Elicker said.

In addition to being a former Ward 10 alder, Elicker is the executive director of the New Haven Land Trust.