



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

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Vice Chair
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November 18, 2019

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, New Haven Board of Alders

Dear President Walker-Myers,

I would like to respectfully submit to the Board of Alders as a Communication, the attached Order calling for a public hearing or workshop to discuss the current status of crime in the city, particularly the recent increase in shootings.

Based on New Haven Police Department statistics, the current total of shootings in the City stands at approximately 73, compared to 46 shootings at the same point in 2018. At a recent Board of Police Commissioners meeting, Police Chief Otoniel Reyes indicated that the City's Police Department is grappling with this increase in shootings in the City, including changes in factors that can lead to violence.

Chief Reyes stated that in previous years the gun violence was tied to specific beefs, while the current increase in shootings seems to be sparked by a number of concurrent issues that are not believed to be connected. These circumstances make it harder to track and stop such crime.

New Haven has not seen this level of gun violence since 2012, and residents are concerned about the surge in shootings across the City and the threat to public safety. It therefore would be very helpful to have a discussion with Police Chief Otoniel Reyes and other New Haven Police Department officials about the current status of crime in the City, particularly the recent increase in gun violence, and to learn how the Police Department plans to address this serious safety concern.

Thank you for your consideration of the request to hold a public hearing or workshop on this important topic.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNA M. FESTA
Alder, Ward 10

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ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING OR WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT STATUS OF CRIME IN THE CITY, PARTICULARLY THE RECENT INCREASE IN SHOOTINGS.

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WHEREAS: Based on New Haven Police Department statistics, the current total of shootings in the City stands at approximately 73, compared to 46 shootings at the same point in 2018; and

WHEREAS: at a recent Board of Police Commissioners meeting, Police Chief Otoniel Reyes indicated that the City's Police Department is grappling with this increase in shootings in the City, including changes in factors that can lead to violence; and

WHEREAS: Chief Reyes said that in previous years the gun violence was tied to specific beefs, while the current increase in shootings seems to be sparked by a number of concurrent issues that are not believed to be connected, making it harder to track and stop such crime; and

WHEREAS: New Haven has not seen this level of gun violence since 2012, and residents are concerned about the surge in shootings across the City and the threat to public safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED that the New Haven Board of Alders conduct a public hearing or workshop with Police Chief Otoniel Reyes and other Police Department officials to discuss the current status of crime in the City, particularly the recent increase in gun violence, and to learn how the Police Department is addressing this serious safety concern.