



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
06106-1591

June 4, 2025

Melinda Wilson
Director, Community Investment Fund
Department of Economic and Community Development
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5 Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Ms. Melinda Wilson:

The Waterbury delegation of Connecticut's General Assembly endorses the City of Waterbury's application to the Community Investment Fund (CIF) for \$4,000,000 in funding to complete the Phase III Downtown Streetscape and Utility Improvement Project. In December 2024, the City of Waterbury applied for \$8,000,000 for this project and was awarded \$4,000,000. This application is seeking the other \$4,000,000 that was part of the CIF Round 6 application. This funding is crucial to advance a transformative \$28,857,000 capital improvement initiative that will modernize downtown Waterbury's infrastructure and secure its future as a thriving hub for residents, businesses, and visitors.

This request is not a desire, but an absolute necessity. The \$4,000,000 in CIF funding will directly address critical infrastructure improvements, including water main relining, sewer relining, and stormwater drainage upgrades along a one-mile stretch of the West Main Corridor. These upgrades are essential to laying the groundwork for future redevelopment and revitalization efforts in downtown Waterbury. Remarkably, there have been no substantial utility or streetscape improvements in this area since the time of its initial construction; this hinders economic growth, public safety, and quality of life.

Over the past decade, the City has demonstrated its commitment and capability to execute large-scale infrastructure projects. Phases I and II of downtown improvements which spanned East Main Street, North Main Street, Bank Street, and Exchange Place were completed through strategic capital stacking of local, state, and federal funds. These efforts resulted in significant enhancements: Phase I leveraged \$4,000,000 in State Bond Funding and \$2,600,000 in local funding, while Phase II used \$11,300,000 in ARPA funding and \$10,000,000 in State Funding.

Phase III, however, represents the most ambitious segment of this multi-phase initiative. Covering nearly three times the area of previous phases, this phase has a much larger scope and requires substantial funding to address both underground utilities and streetscape enhancements. To date, the City has secured \$4,000,000 in CIF Round 6 funding to be used towards the West Main Utility Project; \$9,800,000 of the \$23,100,000 Federal RAISE Grant for streetscape improvements, which will include traffic-calming measures, bike lanes, pedestrian crosswalks, and other critical upgrades. Additionally, \$1,000,000 in local funds have been allocated for preliminary design and engineering work, ensuring the project is shovel-ready.

CIF funding is the final component to fully realize this project. Without these funds, Waterbury's downtown revitalization risks delay or incompleteness, jeopardizing the coordinated timeline with

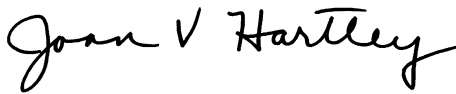
the RAISE-funded streetscape work scheduled to begin in November 2026. The City is working aggressively to complete underground utility improvements before streetscape construction begins, but time is of the essence to meet this deadline.

This project is more than infrastructure; it represents a long-overdue investment in Waterbury's future. Upgrading utilities and streetscapes will unlock the potential for private investment, improve public safety, and enhance quality of life for residents. It will also stimulate economic activity by creating a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly downtown that attracts businesses and visitors.

Critically, the financial burden of this project cannot fall solely on Waterbury taxpayers, who already bear significant fiscal challenges. Securing State support through CIF is the most viable path forward, allowing the City to complete this transformative project without overburdening its residents.

As your Waterbury delegation, we strongly believe this application is not only competitive, but essential. We urge the Community Investment Fund committee to award the \$4,000,000 request, enabling Waterbury to complete this project. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and continued support.

Sincerely,



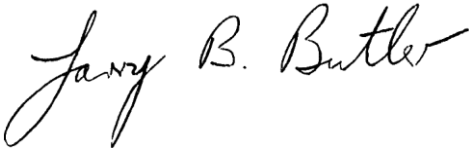
Joan Hartley

15th Senate District



Rob Sampson

16th Senate District



Larry Butler

72nd House District



Geraldo Reyes Jr. 75th

House District



Bill Pizzuto

71st House District



Michael DiGiovancarlo

74th House District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lezlye Zupkus". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lezlye" written in a more compact, stylized manner and the last name "Zupkus" in a more open, flowing script.

Lezlye Zupkus

89th House District