

December 12, 2007

Mayor John DeStefano  
165 Church St. #2  
New Haven, CT 06511

We, the undersigned members of ElmCityCycling, are writing to tell you about an exciting transportation initiative. In light of your demonstrated commitment to sustainable transportation, a more vibrant economy and a higher quality of life in New Haven, we hope we can count on your support.

The League of American Bicyclists, the national leader in advocacy for bicycle transportation and safety, has a well-established program that recognizes municipalities for their accomplishments in developing bicycle-friendly streets and policies. Given our City's commitment to encouraging bicycle transportation, we believe New Haven is deserving of such an award.

The League biannually reviews applications from across the country, granting awards to municipalities deemed "bicycle friendly." Some of our neighbors, including New York City, Washington, DC and Burlington, Vt. have been so honored. New Haven has the chance to be the first city in Connecticut to achieve this recognition.

Submitting an application will do more than just give the City credit for its accomplishments thus far. The review by an external panel of recognized bicycle experts will generate valuable suggestions about new cost-effective ways to make the City more amenable to bicycles as well as help us to prioritize our existing goals and policies.

We invite you to visit the program's website, [www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org](http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org) or to speak with the program's coordinator, Bill Nesper, at (202) 822-1333, ext. 230. Enclosed is a sample copy of a completed application, for your perusal.

The application and audit process is free, as the League has a dedicated source of funding to cover the program's expenses. In addition, members of ElmCityCycling are willing to prepare and submit the application. We ask only that the City: 1) authorize us to do so; 2) provide a designated City Hall contact for this project and 3) request assistance from the following departments We estimate that the data collection will require:

- 2 hours of time from the City Plan Department
- 30 minutes from the Police Department
- 15 minutes from the Parks Department
- 15 minutes from the Public Schools

Michael Piscitelli has already offered intern time from his department to assist with the application. The deadline for submission is March 21, 2008. We propose to have a draft of the application ready before January 31, in order for the City to review and approve it.

We sincerely hope the City of New Haven will join ElmCityCycling in this exciting endeavor. Hunter Smith, an ECC member, will contact your office in a few days to talk in more detail about this process. ElmCityCycling look forward to every opportunity to continue to help in making New Haven safer, cleaner and more livable.

Sincerely,

(signatures on following pages)

cc: Karyn Gilvarg, Executive Director of City Plan;  
Michael Piscitelli, Director of Transportation, Traffic and Parking  
Carl Goldfield, President of the Board of Alderman  
Roland Lemar, Ward 9 Alderman