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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mayor Elicker Reacts to Governor Lamont's Budget Proposal for FY 22-23**

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Today New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker released the following statement regarding the Governor's recently released biennial budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2022-2023:

This budget is a starting point, and while I am deeply disappointed that the Governor chose not to include desperately needed revenue for our community through PILOT in his budget, I intend to work with our partners in the legislature to see that these dollars are secured. They are essential for our residents' well-being and preventing a significant property tax hike on some of our state's poorest people. I welcome the Governor to work with us to prevent this and provide a strong basis for which our city and state can recover. As the Governor stated in his address, this budget should reflect our shared values. New Haven and other cities are economic engines for the state, critical partners in expanding testing and vaccination during the pandemic, and are central to our economic recovery.

New Haven is facing a \$66M deficit in our upcoming Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget. The Governor's inclusion of an additional \$11.8M for New Haven in the budget does not come close to addressing the financial challenges our city faces. The Governor has made clear he does not want to raise taxes on the wealthy. Let's be clear, the Governor's unwillingness to raise taxes on the wealthy means effectively raising taxes on the working poor in New Haven. A bipartisan group of municipal leaders has been advocating for the funding for Tiered PILOT. The Governor mentioned in his address a Connecticut economy that "works for everyone," – Tiered PILOT is one of many levers we can pull to create equal opportunity for all. I am wholly committed to continuing working with our State Delegation, the Governor, municipal partners, and all those committed to equity and sound local government to see it happen.

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