

424 Chapel St • New Haven, Connecticut 06511 • 203-946-6999

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Justin Elicker, Mayor • Maritza Bond, MPH, Director of Health

**Board of Health Commissioners**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 9, 2024**

**Present:** Dr. Darnell Young, Dr. Ada Fenick,  
Dr. Tamiko Jackson-McArthur, Dr. David Cantonwine  
**Absent:** Dr. Alice Forrester, Dr. Gregg Gonsalves  
**Staff:** Maritza Bond, Director of Health; Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer

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**Call to Order:**

Commission Chair Young called the meeting to order at 5:39 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commission Chair Young moved to approve the minutes from September 11th, 2024.  
Commissioner Cantonwine seconded it.

The September minutes were unanimously approved.

**Public Comments or Statements:** Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer, was present as a member of the public.

**Updates:**

Director Bond presented the following status updates:

*Health Department Section Updates:*

Giovanni Zinn, the City Engineer, was the special guest at the meeting. He discussed active transportation and safety issues on our streets, providing an overview of several significant projects categorized as corridor projects. Currently, three of these initiatives are under construction. The first phase of the State Street project has been completed, and the second phase is now open for bidding.

Additionally, the Quinnipiac Avenue and Valley Street projects are actively progressing. These initiatives prioritize pedestrian and bicycle traffic while enhancing safety measures and modifying the physical design of roadways to increase driver awareness of their surroundings. Collectively, these efforts aim to improve street safety.

The City of New Haven is also continuing the installation of speed humps as part of its safety initiatives. Commissioner Jackson-McArthur inquired about the status of the speed humps being installed on Osborne Avenue, particularly in the section between Goffe Terrace and Dyer Street. Giovanni indicated that this installation will be completed shortly. Commissioner Jackson-McArthur expressed concerns about the safety of children and the necessity of reducing traffic speeds in that area.

- Commissioner Cantonwine sought clarification from Giovanni on the criteria utilized to determine the prioritization of street construction. Giovanni elaborated that the decision-making process incorporates various factors, including the needs of vulnerable populations, areas with substandard designs, and specific complaints or documented histories of traffic incidents and fatalities. He emphasized that a qualitative analysis is conducted rather than a quantitative assessment of every location requiring traffic modifications.
- Commission Chair Young raised a question regarding the newly constructed bike lanes, specifically addressing permissible users. Giovanni clarified that mopeds, scooters, electric bicycles, and traditional bicycles are authorized to utilize these lanes.
- Commissioner Fenick raised a question about who is responsible for preventing cars from blocking bike lanes and ensuring related rules are enforced. Giovanni clarified that this duty falls to either the Transportation, Traffic, and Parking Department or the Police Department. The Transportation, Traffic, and Parking Department enforces these regulations through Parking Enforcement Officers, while the Police have the authority to uphold all traffic laws. Expressing her concerns about the prevalence of double parking, particularly in shared spaces for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, Commissioner Fenick asked how the city was tackling this issue. Giovanni explained that the city has now begun implementing both automated speed camera enforcement and red-light camera enforcement. Furthermore, the Board of Alders has approved the installation of these cameras at twenty different locations throughout the city, with plans for them to become operational by the first half of 2025. Commissioner Fenick also inquired about how the city uses data on fatalities and injuries to assess the impact of converting one-way streets to two-way streets. Giovanni pointed out that many fatalities occur on state roadways within the city.

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## Health Department



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In response to this, Commissioner Fenick suggested that the state should bear some responsibility and be more involved in the process. Giovanni noted that the State Department of Transportation is currently working together with the City of New Haven on various projects aimed at improving traffic conditions. Finally, when Commissioner Fenick asked where statistics on fatalities could be found, Giovanni mentioned that the University of Connecticut (UConn) maintains a comprehensive repository for statewide crash data.

- Commission Chair Young asked if bike riders are still allowed to use the travel lane if they still choose to ride in traffic. Given that some of the roads are now narrower on one side because of the bike lane and how this can increase the likelihood of car accidents or injuries to bikers, Giovanni stated that it is legal for bikers to stay in the travel lane.

### New Business:

- Commissioner Fenick suggested that the pedestrian and bicyclist crash data be updated to show the current year, given that the information provided by the UConn repository only shows data from 2015 to 2022. Director Bond responded that she would ask Dorothy Cohen, Director of Epidemiology, to provide an updated report with this data, breaking it down into three main categories. These three categories will include fatalities and injuries caused by motor vehicles, pedestrian fatalities and injuries, and bicyclist fatalities and injuries.

Commission Chair Young moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 pm. Director Bond seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in person.**

Attest:

*Lorraine Reed*

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Lorraine Reed  
Administrative Assistant

10/22/2024

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Date

Approved:

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*Darnell Young*

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Dr. Darnell Young, Chair  
Board of Health Commissioners

11/13/2024

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Date