From:	Fern G
To:	Donoghue, Tracy
Subject:	Please read at tonight"s public hearing portion of the Joint BOR/BOF meeting
Date:	Tuesday, April 4, 2023 3:59:44 PM
Importance:	High

[Dear Tracy Donoghue,
I would like to have my comments below read during the Public Hearing portion of the Joint BOR/BOF meeting on April 4 and submitted for the record. Thank you, Fern Galperin, fern.galperin@gmail.com, 203-406-0866]

Dear Members of the Boards of Representatives and Finance:

I am writing to support one particular aspect of the Mayor's FY 23/24 Proposed Operations & Capital Budgets: the requests that will help to strengthen critical infrastructure and enhance climate resiliency in Stamford.

I encourage the Boards of Finance and Representatives to preserve the budget requests that identify vulnerabilities and implement mitigation strategies, for climate resiliency. Some requested items include:

-**Resiliency and Climate Adaptation Implementation** [**Capital Budget** CP 1457 / 0664, **p. 53**]
-**GIS analyst, coordinator and technician** [**Operating Budget** 0230 Land Use / 2350 GIS, **p. 175**]
-**Forestry arborist, landscape specialist, tree climber, tree maintenance** [**Operating Budget** 0253 / 2127 Forestry **p. 180**]
-**City-wide tree inventory** [**Capital Budget** Land Use 1292 / **p. 51**]
-**Citywide Tree Replanting** (purchase of more climate/region specific trees to grow the urban forest) [**Capital Budget** 0260 / **p. 76**]
-**Parks upgrades**, **such as Cummings, Barrett, Scalzi, Carwin and Cove**

As the second largest city in Connecticut with projected continued growth, we must have adequate green space to be successful. Residents who live in dense areas depend on parks, and trees around the city become even more vital.

If the city continues to develop more hard surface areas impervious to water absorption, there will be a greater risk of higher temperatures and flooding. Planting native trees will help with carbon drawdown through photosynthesis and deep root systems that will help with stormwater absorption.

Stamford is well behind many cities in tree planting and replacement. In 2020-2021, New Haven, an area of 20 square miles, planted 500 trees. Stamford, an area of 52 square miles, planted 102 trees (and removed 300.) The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut's recent study of tree canopy coverage in the state revealed significant tree disparity between the wealthiest and poorest neighborhoods. Trees capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, releasing oxygen in exchange. They cool our neighborhoods and filter impurities from entering wells and waterways.

Please support these measures to lessen Stamford's climate emergency.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Fern Galperin
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