



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE MIKE D'AGOSTINO**  
91<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**CHAIR**  
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 16, 2022

Hon. Lauren Garrett  
Mayor, Town of Hamden  
2750 Dixwell Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06518

Dear Mayor Garrett and Esteemed Legislative Council Members,

Please accept this letter in support of using a portion of Hamden's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase and plant trees to improve our town's tree canopy and improve the quality of life for residents.

We all know and understand the issues that surround environmental justice as well as climate change. Providing the natural landscape of trees, especially in areas of the town that have more paving and concrete, provide many ecological benefits. These include their ability to absorb carbon, stormwater, mitigate flooding and reduce heat effects especially in the summer. Indeed, the fact that air quality and heat stresses disproportionately impact our underserved neighborhoods cannot be stated enough when it comes environmental justice. Trees also simply make our town look more welcoming and attractive for residents and local businesses.

With storms over the past several years, and the vegetation "management" practices of utility companies that I continue to oppose, we have lost much of our natural tree canopy. This would be a great way to start working on restoring it. I know there are many, many other projects and needs of our town to which the ARPA funds can and should be devoted. Nevertheless, I hope you will consider allocating a small portion to this important goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments for use of ARPA funds and I very much look forward to working with the you all on these projects, and others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D'Agostino", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael D'Agostino  
State Representative – District 91  
Serving Hamden from Whitneyville to West Woods

cc: Hamden Alliance For Trees (HAT)