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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Elicker to Join Elected Officials and Residents After Major Environmental Victory
All-American Waste withdraws applications for a controversial waste transfer plant

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Today, New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker joined members of the Board of Alders, Senate President Martin Looney, Save the Sound, community activists, and residents to announce that All-American Waste withdrew its applications to expand a trash facility that would have significantly impacted the environment in the Annex and surrounding neighborhoods. The group held a press conference to formally announce this victory for the community and the environment.

Mayor Justin Elicker said, “I was pleased to hear the news yesterday that All-American Waste pulled their applications for a project that would have had a significant negative impact on the surrounding neighborhoods. Our neighborhoods have gone through so much with the pandemic, and an expanded waste processing facility would have increased rodents, pollution, smells, and potentially risked polluting the Quinnipiac River. Large cities should not bear the overwhelming burden of processing the state’s waste. This is an important environmental justice issue. I want to thank our elected officials, activists, and residents for their hard work to call out what this facility would do to our community,” he concluded.

On January 13, 2021, following significant concern raised by technical experts, residents, and elected officials about the environmental detriments of a planned waste facility, All-American Waste (operating as *Murphy Road Recycling, LLC*) withdrew both applications for the project, one with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the other with the New Haven City Plan Commission.

“Today is a great for our local community and our environment. I want to thank my fellow legislators, Mayor Elicker, and the City of New Haven for their steadfast opposition to this detrimental project. And a special thank you to the local advocates for the community and the environment who have been at the forefront in this fight. Without your efforts today would not have been possible. The Quinnipiac River and the surrounding area is a treasure for us in New Haven and today's victory means we can continue our efforts to protect our environment, stimulate economic development and beautify our neighborhood,” added Senate President Martin Looney.

If both applications had been approved, All-American Waste would have been able to receive and process nearly 500 tons per day of municipal waste (basically household trash) on top of existing construction debris and cardboard streams. Concerns about additional vectors, noise, odors, and other concerns all within close proximity to people's homes were raised throughout the process. Since New Haven has a flow-control ordinance already in place, all of the municipal trash would be brought to the 19 Wheeler Street site from other towns.

“The withdrawal of these applications is a major victory for one of the most environmentally overburdened neighborhoods in all of Connecticut. The Annex is a large and diverse neighborhood with very low incomes. Residents are already faced with pollution and serious quality-of-life impacts from the existing trash facility, oil terminals, I-95, and a dirty oil-burning power plant. We are pleased they will not now be forced to deal with wealthier towns' garbage,” said Roger Reynolds, Senior Legal Counsel at Save the Sound.

Dianne Ecton, Co-Chair of the Fair Haven Community Management Team agreed, “This victory for New Haven should put companies like All-American waste on notice. They cannot keep coming into our cities, especially in black and brown neighborhoods, and attempt to destroy the environment. When this happens, it affects our residents, our elderly, our children and subjects them to potential health ailments that will be with them for the rest of their lives. Today is a small victory in our fight for environmental justice for all,” she concluded.

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