



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

October 21, 2021

Secretary Melissa McCaw
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Secretary McCaw:

The allegations of improper and fraudulent use of COVID-19 relief funds in West Haven are alarming and infuriating. The alleged criminal activity also raises serious questions about the processes and procedures put into place by the Office of Policy and Management in overseeing the distribution of federal COVID-19 relief funds.

In an effort to restore the public trust that was shaken by the allegations in West Haven, we ask that you please provide answers to the following questions. We also hope to discuss these questions and the administration's responses in greater detail in a public hearing that will allow lawmakers, and therefore the people we represent, an opportunity to fully understand the process and add any additional questions they may have. We have asked the co-chairs of the Appropriations Committee to hold a public hearing on this very issue next week.

Our questions are as follows:

- 1) What is the process by which towns can apply for CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) payments?
- 2) Where is that process articulated and how was it communicated to the towns?
- 3) Have any other towns in addition to West Haven been flagged for audit or review?
- 4) What documentation is required for a municipality to obtain a CARES Act payment?
- 5) What documentation are cities and towns required to report to OPM by October 22, 2021?
- 6) Why is the interim reporting period 14 months in length (July 2020 – September 2021)? Why were municipalities not required to submit a report prior to this month?
- 7) What due diligence is done on vendors receiving CARES Act money?
- 8) Is there a standard review process for verifying certifications submitted by the towns?
- 9) Why was the initial certification process changed for the reporting period of July 2020 – September 2021?
- 10) How is it that OPM would authorize payments approved by a municipal agent on behalf of a company for which that agent is a registered member?
- 11) What controls are in place to review CARES Act expenditure to vendors in excess of \$100,000 in the aggregate?
- 12) What controls are in place to review CARES Act expenditure to vendors in excess of \$250,000 in the aggregate?

- 13) What controls are in place to review CARES Act expenditure to vendors in excess of \$500,000 in the aggregate?
- 14) What controls are in place to review CARES Act expenditure to vendors in excess of \$1,000,000 in the aggregate?
- 15) What controls are in place to review multiple payments made to the same vendor?
- 16) Who are all of the individuals involved at OPM in the distribution of funds to municipalities?
- 17) Who are all of the individuals involved in the sign-off on the payments to the Town of West Haven? What was the responsibility of each?
- 18) Can we please have copies of all the submissions for reimbursement for CARES Act money submitted by the Town of West Haven?
- 19) Can we please have all communications to and from the Office of Policy and Management and the City of West Haven regarding CARES Act funds?
- 20) To the extent that there is an application process for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that differs from CARES Act, please provide responses to the above questions as they apply to ARPA funds.

Public trust has been shattered by these allegations. We are talking about funding that was intended to help the most vulnerable, to provide immediate aid to those struggling, to keep our communities safe and healthy, and to help people rebuild and recover. Full transparency from the Governor's administration is an important step on the long road ahead to rebuild public trust.

We thank you for your attention to these questions.

Sincerely,



Senator Kevin C. Kelly
Senate Republican Leader



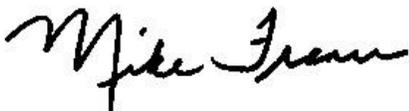
Representative Vincent Candelora
House Republican Leader



Senator Paul M. Formica
Senate Republican Leader Pro Tempore



Senator Craig Miner
Chief Deputy Senate Republican Leader
Appropriations Committee, Ranking Member



Representative Mike France
Appropriations Committee, Ranking Member