Police Chief Otoniel Reyes

New Haven Police Department

1 Union Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06519

Re: Citizen Demand for Implementation of ***8 Can’t Wait*** *Reforms*

Dear Chief Reyes:

The recent death of George Floyd deeply distresses me. As a resident of New Haven, I share your concern for the safety and well-being of our citizens.

I thank you for the steps you and the officers under your command have already taken toward police reform and accountability. I also appreciate the state-wide efforts of the Connecticut Police Accountability & Transparency Task Force. All of these are positive steps forward. Still, more must be done.

It is encouraging that in City of New Haven there have not been any involved deaths from 2013 – 2019; however, that does not mean that the city is free of police brutality. Excessive force and racial bias in *all* police departments must stop NOW, before another person is injured or killed.

I respectfully request that you put in place the **8 Can’t Wait** ([www.8cantwait.org](http://www.8cantwait.org)) reforms that have not yet been implemented in New Haven. The data proves the **8 Can’t Wait** policies have led to a reduction in officer involved deaths and an increase in public trust.

Across the country, larger cities are able to view their city’s score card at [www.8cantwait.org](http://www.8cantwait.org). As of [date], Connecticut has no data in this database, which is disappointing, as Connecticut citizens are unable to see where we stand, what progress has been made and what improvements are needed. The executive order recently signed by Governor Lamont does address banning chokeholds and strangle holds and requires officers to intervene when they see other officers engaging in wrongdoing, but that is only a beginning.

I want to see all **8 Can’t Wait** reforms adopted and practiced in New Haven and across the state.

1. Ban Chokeholds and Strangleholds

2. Require De-Escalation

3. Require Warning Before Shooting

4. Requires Exhausting All Alternatives Before Shooting

5. Duty to Intervene

6. Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles

7. Require Use of Force Continuum

8. Require Comprehensive Reporting

I call on you to produce a public, transparent, and comprehensive plan of action to implement the **8 Can’t Wait** policies by August 31, 2020.

Please inform me of your progress on or before this date.

Respectfully,

Your Fellow Citizen [Your Name]