

Mayor
CAROLINE SIMMONS



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION
CARMEN E. HUGHES

CITY OF STAMFORD
Office of I.D.E.A.S.
Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Accessibility Strategies
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
STAMFORD, CT 06904-2152

To Respective Board of Finance and Board of Representative Members,

The Stamford ADA Advisory Council is a group of dedicated citizens and government representatives committed to improving access for all persons, regardless of ability, to Stamford's public programs, properties and services. Committee members have been appointed by the Mayor to work collaboratively towards the following mission and goals:

- Provide guidance and evaluate efforts to improve access for all to City facilities and programs;
- Develop procedures to identify and resolve access deficiencies;
- Advise the Mayor and the City's Boards and Commissions regarding compliance-related issues;
- Connect the City and community to achieve greater awareness of the ADA; and
- Increase awareness and facilitate communication between the City, local businesses, and members of the community.

The Council has been working closely with the Transportation, Traffic & Parking Department on advising for new projects, assisting with design, and collaborating with department staff. The Council is pleased to see the inclusion of \$250,000 in this year's proposed capital budget for ADA Curb Ramps for Pedestrian Safety. This funding specifically will go towards the City's legally mandated inventory of sidewalks and pedestrian ramps to develop a list and timeline for bringing our City's sidewalks up to ADA code.

In line with the Mayor's vision to ensure Stamford is an equitable, inclusive, innovative, vibrant and accessible City where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. We believe everyone who lives, works, and visits our great City is entitled to enjoy it no matter what their physical ability. This City prides itself on welcoming and accepting people from all walks of life, and the Stamford ADA Advisory Council works to ensure Stamford can be accessible for everyone. This funding is one part of our group's efforts to improve accessibility in Stamford, and we write to you to express our support for the funding and respectfully request this funding is approved.

Respectfully,

Phillip A. Magalnick

Phillip A. Magalnick
Co-Chair, Stamford ADA Advisory Council