

**SB 122**

**Letters of Support for Proposed  
New London Community Center**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF SOUTHEASTERN  
CONNECTICUT

March 1, 2012

**Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio  
New London City Hall  
181 State Street  
New London, CT 06320**

Boys & Girls Club  
Of Southeastern CT  
P.O. Box 1762  
Groton, CT 06340  
Tel 860-574-9040

**Dear Mayor Finizio:**

**It is my pleasure to write on behalf of Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern CT in support of the request for State bond funds for a community center in New London. I fully support the vision to develop a modern, multi-purpose facility which would provide enrichment, lifelong learning, social, health and fitness activities, to meet the recreational, social, cultural and physical needs of a diverse and changing community.**

**Such a facility would be a valuable community asset and important anchor for the community, a cornerstone of health and recreation activities and social programs for the City of New London, serving residents of all ages, particularly those who are not being presently served.**

**Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern CT would partner with the City of New London to offer a larger and more accessible afterschool and teen center program to all the youth of New London. Such a strategic partnership would enhance the quality of life, promote healthy living and build community spirit.**

Sincerely,

  
**Cindy Morrison  
Director of Operations**

**Officers**  
William Jervis  
President

Nick Fischer  
Vice President

Karin Wallace  
Secretary

Josh Lyons  
Treasurer

**Board of Directors**  
Katie Cubina  
Myles Bradley  
Lynn Kelly  
Elizabeth Rivera  
Ernest Hewitt  
Brad Boyd

**Regional Service  
Director**  
Jeffrey Starcher

**Director of Operations**  
Cindy Morrison



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Director of Operations**

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Director  
Jeffrey Starcher**

**Director of Operations  
Cindy Morrison**



February 16, 2012

Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio  
City Hall  
181 State Street  
New London, CT 06320

Dear Mayor Finizio:

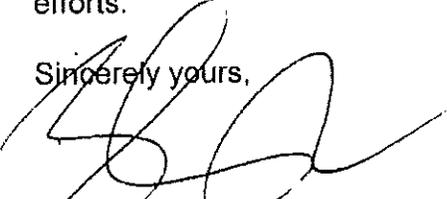
It is my pleasure to write on behalf of Chelsea Groton Bank in support of the request for State bond funds for a community center in New London. We support the vision to develop a multi-purpose facility which would provide enrichment, lifelong learning, social, health and fitness activities, to meet the recreational, social, cultural and physical needs of a diverse and changing community.

Such a facility would be a valuable community asset and important anchor for the region, a cornerstone of health and recreation activities and social programs for the City of New London, serving residents of all ages, particularly those who are not being presently served.

Chelsea Groton would be pleased to discuss ways that we could aid you and the City of New London to support the facility. Such a strategic partnership would enhance the quality of life, promote healthy living and build community spirit.

We would be happy to meet at your convenience to explore ways to support your efforts.

Sincerely yours,



B. Michael Rauh, Jr.  
President & CEO

**B. Michael Rauh, Jr.**  
*President*  
904 Poquonnock Road  
Groton, CT 06340  
Phone: 860-448-4104  
Fax: 860-448-4119



January 17, 2012

Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio  
City Hall  
181 State Street  
New London, CT 06320

Dear Mayor Finizio:

It is my pleasure to write on behalf of the Liberty Bank Foundation in support of the request for State bond funds for a community center in New London. We fully support the vision to develop a modern, multi-purpose facility that would provide enrichment, lifelong learning, and social, health and fitness activities to meet the recreational, social, cultural and physical needs of a diverse and changing community.

Such a facility would be a valuable community asset and important anchor for the community, a cornerstone of health and recreation activities and social programs for the City of New London, serving residents of all ages, particularly those who are not being presently served.

The Liberty Bank Foundation is already partnering with the City of New London in the planning effort for this facility, and has provided a grant to support the feasibility study. We believe that by supporting the Community Center, we support our primary funding priority of providing preventive programs for families and children. We see this project as an opportunity to enhance the quality of life, promote healthy living and build community spirit.

Since its inception in 1997, the Liberty Bank Foundation has provided over \$6.7 million in grants to nonprofit organizations within Liberty Bank's market area. The foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for people of low or moderate income by investing in the areas of preventive programming for children and families, affordable housing, and nonprofit capacity building. Along with its grantmaking, the foundation strives to foster the convening and collaboration of nonprofits, funders, business, and government to address community issues.

If you should have any questions about the Liberty Bank Foundation's involvement with the Community Center project, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your anticipated support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue Murphy".

Sue Murphy  
Executive Director



Bruce D. Cummings  
President &  
Chief Executive Officer

February 28, 2012

Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio  
City Hall  
181 State Street  
New London, CT 06320

Dear Mayor Finizio:

It is my pleasure to write on behalf of Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in support of the request for State bond funds (SB 122) for a community center in New London. I fully support the vision to develop a modern, multi-purpose facility which would provide enrichment, lifelong learning, social, health and fitness activities, to meet the recreational, social, cultural and physical needs of a diverse and changing community.

Such a facility would be a valuable community asset and important anchor for the community, a cornerstone of health and recreation activities and social programs for the City of New London, serving residents of all ages, particularly those who are not being presently served. Once completed, this facility might serve as a site for rehabilitation and other community health programs facilitated by staff of L & M Hospital. Such a strategic partnership would enhance the quality of life, promote healthy living and build community spirit.

Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, specifically through our Office of Community Health, Outreach & Partnerships, will continue to partner with the City of New London and the many other organizations that have committed to this project through both the planning and implementation stages of this endeavor.

By way of background, Lawrence & Memorial, whose main campus is in New London, is a not-for-profit, general, acute care, private hospital that has been serving this region since 1912. We are licensed for 280 beds. Our nearly 3,000 employees and 400-member medical staff provide patient care to medical, surgical, pediatric, rehab, psychiatric, and obstetrical patients from throughout southeastern Connecticut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce D. Cummings".

Bruce D. Cummings, FACHE  
President & CEO



Ledge Light  
Health District

February 24, 2012

Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio  
City Hall  
181 State Street  
New London, CT 06320

Dear Mayor Finizio:

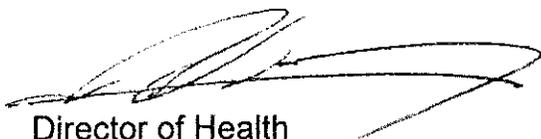
It is with great enthusiasm that I write on behalf of Ledge Light Health District in support of the request for State bond funds for a much-needed community center in New London. For a dozen reasons couched in public health, we fully support the vision to develop a modern, multi-purpose facility to provide social enrichment, lifelong learning, social, health and fitness activities, all focused on meeting the recreational, social, cultural and physical needs of an increasingly diverse and changing community.

Such a facility would be a valuable community asset and important anchor for the community, a cornerstone of health and recreation activities and social programs for the City of New London, serving residents of all ages, particularly multiple populations not presently served.

Ledge Light Health District will partner with the City of New London to hold health screenings, flu clinics, tobacco cessation and other health education programs. Such a strategic partnership will enhance the quality of life, promote healthy living and build community spirit.

Ledge Light Health District provides professionally managed comprehensive public health services designed to improve the quality of life and health and safety of its residents. The District service area consists of East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, New London and Waterford, with a service population of over 120,000.

Baker Salsbury, MPH, MSW, MHSA



Director of Health

283 Stoddards Wharf Road  
P.O. Box 375 • Gales Ferry, CT 06335  
Tel 860.464.7281 • Fax 860.464.6362  
www.uwsect.org



United Way  
of Southeastern Connecticut

January 26, 2012

Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio  
City Hall  
181 State Street  
New London, CT 06320

Dear Mayor Finizio:

It is my pleasure to write this letter supporting the City of New London and the New London Community Center Planning Collaborative's request for State bond funds for a community center in New London. I fully support the vision to develop a modern, multi-purpose facility which would provide enrichment, lifelong learning, social, and health and fitness activities, to meet the recreational, social, cultural and physical needs of a diverse and changing community.

Such a facility would be a valuable community asset, an important anchor for the community and a cornerstone of health and recreation activities and social programs for the City of New London, serving residents of all ages, particularly those who are not being presently served.

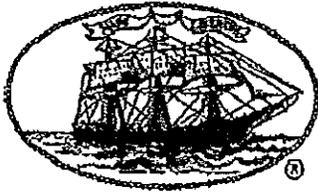
United Way would partner with the City of New London and the collaborative to help coordinate services in New London and continue to serve as a referral organization for programs and services available for New London residents. Such a strategic partnership would enhance the quality of life, promote healthy living and build community spirit.

Again, it is my privilege to provide this letter of support on behalf of the City of New London. I look forward to hearing that funding has been awarded to begin this important work. If you should need more information or have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly either by phone (860) 464-3311 or email [virginia.mason@uwsect.org](mailto:virginia.mason@uwsect.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia L. Mason".

Virginia L. Mason  
President and CEO



## City of New London

Senior Center  
120 Broad Street • New London, CT 06320 • Phone (860) 447-5232

January 25, 2012

Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio  
City Hall  
181 State Street  
New London, CT 06320

Dear Mayor Finizio:

It is my pleasure to write on behalf of New London Senior Center in support of the request for State bond funds for a community center in New London. I fully support the vision to develop a modern, multi-purpose facility which would provide enrichment, lifelong learning, social, health and fitness activities, to meet the recreational, social, cultural and physical needs of a diverse and changing community.

Such a facility would be a valuable community asset and important anchor for the community, a cornerstone of health and recreation activities and social programs for the City of New London, serving residents of all ages, particularly those who are not being presently served.

The New London Senior Center has been researching significant ways to increase membership for our aging "Baby Boomers" and our findings are that this group is very interested in preserving their healthy habits for as long as they possibly can. They are an active group visiting gyms for exercise, eating lighter and healthier, requesting exercise equipment for strength and flexibility and seeking ways to measure their progress through enhanced technical gauges which measure resistance as well as stamina. A strategic plan/ partnership would enhance the quality of life, promote healthy living and build community spirit for all New London residents whether they are over the age of 55, retired, in school or just beginning to learn about healthy lifelong habits as they travel the continuum of aging.

The New London Senior Center has supported healthy lifestyles for a great many years offering exercise classes, nutritional education, health and wellness, line dancing, yoga, aquacize, health screenings, flu clinics, *Live Well* for those managing chronic illnesses, socialization, and a variety of other programs/activities to help keep our community feeling well. Our members live each day encouraging each other on the importance and consistency of proper diet, good hygiene smoking cessation and exercise. We are well aware that exercise, as well as diet, has therapeutic value thereby helping to reduce visits to the doctor, which can result in lower health costs. We would welcome all opportunities to expand our horizons to enhance our model of health and well-being.

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth L. Witter  
Senior Citizens Coordinator/Municipal Agent



120 Broad Street  
New London, CT 06320

P (860) 442-4994  
P (860) 447-0459 (Family Center/W Tales)  
P (860) 442-1497 (NLCCC)  
F (860) 443-1795  
E [nlya@ci.new-london.ct.us](mailto:nlya@ci.new-london.ct.us)  
[www.newlondonclicks.org](http://www.newlondonclicks.org)

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*Early Childhood Family Center • School Aged • Youth Center • Teen Center  
Teen Employment • Whale's Tales Book Bank • Parent Leadership Training  
Juvenile Review Board • N.L.C.C.C. Prevention Coalition*

January 27, 2012

Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio  
City Hall  
181 State Street  
New London, CT 06320

Dear Mayor Finizio:

It is my pleasure to write on behalf of New London Youth Affairs in support of the request for State bond funds for a community center in New London. I fully support the vision to develop a modern, multi-purpose facility which would provide enrichment, lifelong learning, social, health and fitness activities, to meet the recreational, social, cultural and physical needs of a diverse and changing community.

Such a facility would be a valuable community asset and important anchor for the community, a cornerstone of health and recreation activities and social programs for the City of New London, serving residents of all ages, particularly those who are not being presently served.

New London Youth Affairs would partner with the City of New London to facilitate multidisciplinary programs at the Community Center for preschool children through teens, and their families. Such a strategic partnership would enhance the quality of life, promote healthy living and build community spirit.

New London Youth Affairs serves as New London's Youth Service Bureau. Positive youth development is targeted through skill/knowledge building, constructive peer/family relationships, local resource connections, access to new growth opportunities, and community coordination.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kleckner  
Coordinator of Youth Grants and Services

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**POSITIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH**

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# Kudos to planners of a New London community center

By David Collins Publication: The Day Updated 03/04/2012 12:11 AM

There is so much good to be said about the developing plans for a New London community center that it is hard to know where to start.

Of course, the most encouraging thing about the project is the idea that New London's young people finally might have a suitable place to go for recreation, just like kids in so many suburban towns where there are active YMCAs.

New London has been missing a facility like that since its Y closed in 1981. But it is not being planned as just a youth center. That's more of what's good about the project. It is meant to serve everyone in the community, from kids and families to seniors.

It also could serve one or more health providers in the area, as a facility for programs like physical therapy and cardiac rehabilitation. That's good, because those health providers might contribute to the cost.

Another good thing about the project is the way it seems to be bringing the community together.

Three principal organizers behind the planning are City Council President Michael Passero, Betty Sugerman Weintraub, assistant vice president and associate director for grantmaking and community initiatives for the Liberty Bank Foundation, and Laurel Holmes, director of community health outreach for Lawrence & Memorial Hospital.

But many chairs around the table are filled when the New London Community Center Planning Collaborative holds its meetings. Participating have been representatives of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, Connecticut College, the Coast Guard Academy, the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, some local banks and youth and seniors programs in the city.

"The room is just full of people who are important in the community," Passero said. "They know the value of what we are trying to put together."

It is probably this widespread community spirit that helped involve the region's delegation to the General Assembly in seeking a state contribution, and that's a good thing. Lawmakers have come together to sponsor a bill that would provide some state funding, \$8 million in bond money.

Other components of the financing for the project, which could cost up to \$15 million, might include some city bond money, federal grants, private fundraising and contributions from participating health care providers, Passero said.

Plans are to be sure that ongoing funding sources are identified for operational costs and maintenance as well.

Part of the city's initial contribution for building the center, Passero said, essentially could be a redistribution of other capital expenses that are on the horizon.

The new facility, for instance, could replace the senior center, which is in a building that needs major capital expenditures. And a new pool to replace the one that is out of service at the high school could be built in the community center instead of at a remodeled or new school.

Including a pool in the project is one of the reasons the collaborative is considering a site at Bates Woods Park, because it is near the high school.

That could put the center in the mainstream of similar projects around the country that are trying to combine older and younger populations on the same campus.

The location has not been finalized in the planning discussions. I like the idea of using a riverfront piece of Riverside Park.

But, really, there could be plenty of good places to put it.

Collaborative members would like to encourage anyone who is interested to turn out for a public hearing on the state funding bill. The hearing, planned for 9 a.m. Tuesday, also will include testimony on other pending bills.

The group is planning to put together a delegation of people to testify, including, possibly, some New London seniors and some high school students.

I'm sure their testimony will be good, too.