



March 9, 2015

**Bridgeport  
City Council**

Thomas C. McCarthy  
*City Council President*

Denese Taylor-Moye  
*President Pro Tempore*

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*Majority Leader*

Rick Torres  
*Minority Leader*

Richard M. Paoletto, Jr.  
*Deputy Majority Leader / Sgt at Arms*

Michelle Lyons  
*Deputy Majority Leader*

Richard DeJesus  
*Deputy Majority Leader*

Susan T. Brannelly  
Rick Torres  
*130th District*

Jack Banta  
Denese Taylor-Moye  
*131st District*

Patricia Swain  
Robert E. Halstead  
*132nd District*

Howard Austin Sr.  
Thomas C. McCarthy  
*133rd District*

Michelle A. Lyons  
AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
*134th District*

Mary A. McBride-Lee  
Richard D. Salters, Sr.  
*135th District*

Richard DeJesus  
Alfredo Castillo  
*136th District*

Lydia N. Martinez  
Milta I. Feliciano  
*137th District*

Michael J. Marella, Jr.  
Richard M. Paoletto, Jr.  
*138th District*

James Holloway  
Eneida L. Martinez-Walker  
*139th District*

Bill Finch  
*Mayor*

Fleeta Hudson  
*City Clerk*

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Connecticut General Assembly

Senator John W Fonfara and Representative Jeffrey J. Berger

Dear Sirs/Madams,

Bridgeport contains a large amount of abandoned historic buildings that depend on government funding to bridge the gap between development cost and after rehab market value. It is crucial that the CGA preserve the Community Investment Act funding because it is the linchpin to leveraging other financing including tax credits that will enable Bridgeport to rejuvenate its Downtown and its historic neighborhoods.

In addition, Bridgeport has a need to create more open space for its congested neighborhoods including: community gardens, bike paths, linear parks and waterfront access. The CIA funding enables the municipality to purchase and improve abandoned derelict open space and provide quality of life improvements to these spaces for the benefit of neighborhoods.

Attached are photos of a small sampling of abandoned historic homes in Bridgeport's neighborhoods that depend on CIA funding for their development. This does not include the large amount of buildings in Bridgeport's Downtown, that are historical including the Palace and Majestic Theaters.

Sincerely

Robert E Halstead

City Councilman

132<sup>nd</sup> District