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**CITY OF DANBURY**  
155 Deer Hill Avenue  
Danbury, CT 06810  
**City Council**

November 22, 2011

Hon. Members of the City Council  
155 Deer Hill Avenue  
Danbury, CT 06810

Dear Council Members:

With long-term research strongly suggesting that healthy childhood habits, including proper diet and regular physical activity, greatly reduce the risk of obesity-related adult diseases, we request the City Council appoint an Ad Hoc committee to pursue a series of initiatives that would culminate in new exercise and recreational facilities for Danbury residents. Such facilities would include paved pathways within city and state parks for pedestrians and bicyclists; exclusive car-free, right-of-ways connecting retail, residential and community gathering places; and an area for off-street recreational skateboarding situated on city owned property. To minimize costs to taxpayers the committee must seek innovative sources of fundraising through state, federal and private investment.

In addition, we ask that the committee investigate the creation of planning and zoning regulatory incentives for so-called "pocket parks" or small outdoor exercise playscapes designed for families with young children. These incentives would exist as part of the general approval process for residential new construction, while the committee determines a course of action for the establishment of these spaces in existing city neighborhoods.

Several of our more progressive neighboring towns and cities already offer their residents such facilities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention views such initiatives as a preventative health necessity, as incidents of disease and childhood obesity climb alarmingly, more than tripling in the last three decades alone. We believe the time is now, for a discussion on ways the City of Danbury can broaden the health-related recreational opportunities it provides for its citizens and, in so doing, continue to encourage a fit and healthy community.

Truly,

Duane Perkins  
Councilman - 5<sup>th</sup> Ward

Fred Visconti  
Councilman - 5<sup>th</sup> Ward

Thomas Saadi  
Council Minority Leader

Peter Nero  
Councilman - 4<sup>th</sup> Ward

Benjamin Chianese  
Councilman - 6<sup>th</sup> Ward

Paul Rotello  
Councilman - 6<sup>th</sup> Ward