FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Addressing the Need for Enhanced Procurement Processes: Tom Goldenberg’s Statement on NHPS Bus Transportation

New Haven, May 8, 2023 - In response to recent discussions on NHPS bus transportation procurement, Mayoral Candidate Tom Goldenberg has issued the following statement regarding the need for enhanced rigor in our procurement processes:

"The current procurement discussions surrounding NHPS bus transportation shed light on the need for more stringent procedures in our city procurement practices. The decision being made by NHPS to retain only First Student, without introducing competition as originally intended in the Request for Proposal (RFP), is founded on several erroneous premises. This not only hampers our ability to attract serious future bidders but also reinforces First Student's control over NHPS bus transportation."

"I support the suggestion put forth by Board Member Goldson, advocating for the continued engagement of First Student for regular transportation needs while involving WE Transport for specialized transportation requirements. WE Transport has demonstrated an impressive employee retention strategy, offering starting wages for drivers higher by over $7 per hour, and they are highly qualified for the job at a competitive rate."

"This occurrence is not an isolated incident but rather part of a pattern of mishandling bidding processes. For instance, there was placed an arbitrary restriction on New Haven Alders applying for custodial contracts, unfairly targeting current Mayoral candidate Shafiq Abdussabur, along with the delayed disclosure of conflicts of interest during that bidding process."
"As Mayor, I am committed to conducting a comprehensive review of our procurement processes to ensure they are fair, competitive, and in the best interests of our city. Numerous cities across the nation have implemented procurement excellence programs, resulting in millions of dollars in cost savings. I will collaborate with our city departments to establish a similar level of rigor and accountability within our procurement practices."

For media inquiries, please contact:

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About Tom Goldenberg:

Tom Goldenberg grew up in West Haven and was raised by local public school teachers. Tom was raised in a multi-faith and diverse community which gave him an appreciation for people from all walks of life. Tom moved to New Haven as a young adult and has been a part of the New Haven community for most of his life.

For nine years, Tom taught and volunteered in South India, including helping rebuild villages devastated from the 2004 Asian Tsunami. The experience imprinted on Tom the value of “seva,” or selfless service, something that informs his approach to governance.

For the last several years, Tom has worked with other cities and states on issues that confront New Haven as challenges – education, housing, and economic development.

Having spent time in New Haven as a child, young adult, and now raising a family, Tom is passionate about the city and excited to apply his professional experience to better the lives of New Haven residents.

For more information about Tom Goldenberg’s campaign, visit www.tomfornewhaven.com.