



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2025

Open Letter from Republican Mayoral Candidate Steve Orosco on Recent Shootings in New Haven

Fellow residents of New Haven,

Over the past three days, our city has suffered four separate shootings, with two lives lost and several more injured. This is heartbreaking and unacceptable. No New Haven family should live in fear. No child should return to school with violence hanging over their neighborhood.

Today, I am calling on Mayor Justin Elicker to face the crisis honestly and take real, meaningful action—not just issue another press statement. Public safety is the mayor's highest responsibility; right now, that duty is not being met.

Mayor Elicker, I have a direct question:

Why did you recently hold a press conference claiming violent crime is down and New Haven is on the right track? Is it just because you're running for re-election, or do you simply not understand what true leadership looks like?

Residents know the truth: violence is rising, fear is spreading, and the pain is all too real. You can massage the numbers, but you can't hide the reality people face every day.

The facts are clear:

We're over 100 officers short of the 400 our city needs. Neighborhoods are unprotected and officers are overstretched.

Morale is at rock bottom. Recruitment is slow, contracts are delayed, and City Hall's support wavers.

Community policing is impossible when too few officers are asked to do too much.

Your administration has told police to stop enforcing "lifestyle crimes" like drug use and low-level robberies—opening the door to more serious lawlessness.

You tout new programs like COMPASS, but where is the data? There's no public evidence COMPASS is working, and certainly no plan to restore true public safety.

And instead of prioritizing police or youth engagement, Mayor Elicker built two new bureaucracies: the Department of Community Resilience and the Office of Climate and Sustainability—costing taxpayers over \$7 million a year.

These offices see constant staff turnover, unclear progress, and more bureaucracy rather than real solutions. While our police and youth programs languish, the mayor grows City Hall's payroll and little else.

It's time for real change—not more excuses or distractions.

Here's what we must do immediately:

Increase police presence in the neighborhoods under threat.

Restore officer morale with clear, steady leadership and real investment.

Call for mutual aid—from the state police (as done in past crises). Or is the mayor planning to sit on his hands until the feds are forced to step in and do his job for him?

Focus funding on youth engagement with proven programs instead of more desk jobs at City Hall.

Mr. Mayor, with the first day of school just days away, I call on you: Present a real, transparent public safety plan for keeping kids safe on their walk to class this fall. Put aside the talking points and show some urgency—our families demand it.

And if you can't do that, maybe it's time the residents—and our children—got a mayor who will.

Finally, I invite you directly: Call me. Let's put politics aside and start working on real solutions. New Haven deserves a mayor who acts, not just reacts—who delivers results, not just rhetoric.

Sincerely,

Steve Orosco

Republican Candidate for Mayor of New Haven