



Ex-chief charged with stealing city funds

State police arrest Jacobson

File details bets, confrontation

BY REETI MALHOTRA
STAFF REPORTER

Former New Haven Police Chief Karl Jacobson was arrested by the Connecticut State Police and charged on Friday for allegedly embezzling \$85,500 from two city funds during 2024 and 2025, according to a Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice press release.

City officials previously announced that Jacobson admitted to stealing \$10,000 from the New Haven Police Department’s confidential informants fund over the course of two months and abruptly left his position on Jan. 5. Just a day after the city unveiled a series of new accountability measures to surveil and restart the fund, Jacobson turned himself in to state police, Mayor Justin Elicker said at a Friday afternoon press conference.

Courtesy of Connecticut State Police



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Jacobson is being charged with two counts of first-degree larceny, and his bail has been set at \$150,000.

According to the application for a warrant for Jacobson’s arrest, the former chief stole \$81,500 from the confidential informants and public funds, and \$4,000 from the Police Activity League, a youth programming organization for adolescents between the ages of 8 and 17, for which Jacobson was a board member. The league is primarily funded by monetary donations from New Haven businesses, residents, organized fundraisers, state grants, and automatic deductions from city police officers’ checks, according to the application.

“It’s a very sad day for the city to see a chief who was beloved by so many arrested for a theft of public money and also money that was intended for children,” Elicker said.

According to the affidavit in the application for the arrest warrant, Acting Police Chief David Zannelli — who was then an assistant chief — was alerted to “concerns” about the former chief’s “behaviour” by a sergeant in the intelligence unit on Dec. 23, 2025.

Upon identifying potential issues with the confidential informants fund’s management, Zannelli relayed his concerns regarding Jacobson’s behavior to Assistant Chief Manmeet Bhagtana, the affidavit says. Bhagtana told Zannelli that Jacobson had made additional fund requests to repair a door dam-



Ariela Lopez, Contributing Photographer

BY REETI MALHOTRA AND ADELE HAEG
STAFF REPORTERS

Less Former New Haven Police Chief Karl Jacobson was arrested on Friday and accused of embezzling \$85,500 from public funds during 2024 and 2025 — while betting over \$4 million on online gambling platforms last year, according to the application for his arrest warrant.

Jacobson abruptly retired from the New Haven Police Department on Jan. 5, just hours after he was confronted by now-Acting Police Chief David Zannelli and two fellow assistant chiefs for alleged mismanagement of the department’s confidential informants fund. During the meeting — which Zannelli recorded — Jacob-

son admitted to having spent “too much on gambling” and that he had “sought help,” according to the affidavit by a state police lieutenant in the application for Jacobson’s arrest warrant.

“I have a problem. I fix my alcohol problem. I turned to gambling. I don’t know why it just got worse recently,” Jacobson said to Zannelli in that meeting, according to the transcript of their Jan. 5 conversation included in the affidavit.

Six weeks after his sudden departure, the eight-page affidavit reveals the extent of Jacobson’s alleged wrongdoing and the gambling habit he maintained while serving as New Haven’s top law enforcement officer, recognized

SEE **GAMBLING** PAGE 4

Trump looms in Yale-city talks

BY NELLIE KENNEY AND SASHA CABRAL
STAFF REPORTERS

One man looms large as New Haven and Yale negotiate the future of the University’s voluntary payment to the city — and he doesn’t live in New Haven.

President Donald Trump has cut federal funding to the city and state, and his One Big Beautiful Bill is set to impose an 8 percent tax on Yale’s endowment returns beginning in July. These changes are top

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YuLin Zhen, Photography Editor



Agency: Yale left diversity program

BY LEO NYBERG
STAFF REPORTER

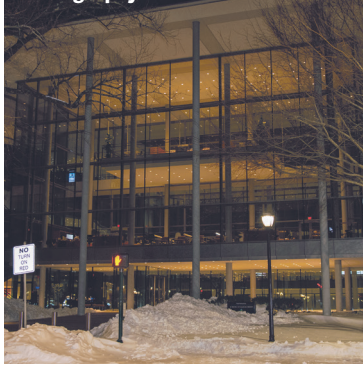
Yale and 30 other universities have made deals with the Trump administration to end their partnerships with an organization that the government accused of discrimination for aiding members of underrepresented groups in seeking doctoral degrees, the Department of Education announced in a press release on Thursday.

The nonprofit organization, called the PhD Project, provides resources — such as mentoring, conferences and networking — to people from underrepresented groups who are seeking doctorates in business fields, and encourages them to enter academia or management.

A Yale School of Management

SEE **PROJECT** PAGE 5

Garrett Curtis, Photography Editor



A second snow day advised

BY JERRY GAO
STAFF REPORTER

Yale administrators recommended a second day of remote instruction, after a blizzard affecting the entire Northeast coated New Haven with over a foot of snow and brought a normally bustling campus largely to a standstill.

In a message on Monday after-

noon, University Provost Scott Strobel and Senior Vice President for Operations Geoff Chatas encouraged classes and University work to be done remotely if possible, though still noting exceptions.

“We recognize that some labs and courses require an in-person format,” the administrators wrote. “We ask that faculty communicate directly with their students about

the status of their courses.”

The announcement follows a Yale alert on Sunday that told Yale students and employees that all Monday classes and non-essential work would be moved to a remote format. More than 16 inches of snow fell on New Haven streets by Monday afternoon, according to the National

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FOOTBALL

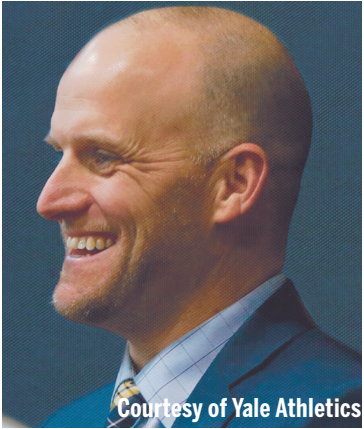
Lehigh coach coming to Yale

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

Kevin Cahill, Lehigh University’s head football coach, will be the next head coach of Yale’s team, Yale Athletics announced on Monday afternoon.

Cahill’s appointment comes after longtime Yale head coach Tony Reno announced last Tuesday that he was stepping down after 14 years at the helm, citing medical reasons. After declaring the commencement of a national search for Reno’s replacement, the Bulldogs have landed one of the top coaches in the Football Championship Subdivision.

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Courtesy of Yale Athletics

INSIDE THE NEWS

Students are reviving Yale’s chapter of the NAACP after years of dormancy.

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BLIZZARD New Haven issued another round of parking bans in anticipation of a second major snowstorm in a month.

PAGE 7 **NEWS**

BASKETBALL The Yale men’s basketball team came back from a 0-10 starting deficit to beat Penn on Saturday.

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