

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: FY 2019-2020 GENERAL, CAPITAL, and SPECIAL BUDGETS. (Mayor's Office)

- a. Appropriating Ordinance #1, an ordinance making appropriations for operating departments of the City of New Haven for the fiscal year (FY) July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020
- b. Appropriating Ordinance #2, an ordinance making tax levy and revenue assumptions for the fiscal year (FY) July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020
- c. Appropriating Ordinance #3, an ordinance authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds for FY20
- d. Appropriating Ordinance #3, an ordinance authorizing issuance of general obligation tax anticipation notes and/or general obligation grant anticipation notes FY20
- e. Appropriating Ordinance #4, an ordinance amendment to Section 29-119, Section 17-201, Section 17-143, and 29-30 or the General Code of Ordinances authorizing additions and changes in permits, licenses and user fees for the fiscal year 2019-2020
- f. Appropriating Ordinance #5, East Rock Park Communications, Alling Memorial Golf Course, Lighthouse Park Carousel Event, and Ralph Walker Skating Rink Enterprise Fund Budgets for FY20

REPORT: 1555-09

ADVICE: The Commission supports the proposed budgets for the City Plan Department and Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Historic District Commission as part of the orders submitted by the Mayor regarding the FY 2019-20 budgets. The Commission finds no conflict with city land use policies or the Comprehensive Plan.

BACKGROUND

In March 2019, as required by the City Charter, Mayor Harp submitted the recommended municipal budget for FY20 for consideration by the Board of Alders. The budget includes the general fund, special fund, and capital budgets for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2019.

The City's budget includes three broad categories, the general fund, the special fund and the capital fund. Proposed funding levels for FY20 are as follows:

GENERAL FUND - City	\$368,672,354
GENERAL FUND - BOE	\$187,968,697
GENERAL FUND - Total	\$556,641,051
CAPITAL FUND (City Bonds)	\$70,700,000
SPECIAL FUNDS - City	\$24,758,791

The Commission notes that it also reviewed the Consolidated Plan, Community Development Block Grant, ESG, HOME, and HOPWA budgets (see CPC Report 1555-11).

A public hearing was held on March 12, 2019 and the Board of Alders will continue with workshops and hearings through March, April, and May.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The FY20 budget reflects ongoing challenges on the both expense and revenue side of the City ledger, so proposed appropriations are scaled accordingly. However, the budget is intended to maintain a core level of City services in public safety, public education, and economic development. Tax exempt property remains a significant concern, with approximately 56% of the Grand List now exempt from the local property tax. While this is an issue in many center cities, it is particularly acute in New Haven as the aggregate Grand List value for tax exempt properties now

stands at \$7.8 billion. This is compared to \$4.0 billion in Hartford, \$2.6 billion in Stamford and \$2.2 billion in Bridgeport. The Grand List, which has seen modest growth in recent years, declined by \$1,478,265, placing further pressure on the revenue side. With state aid (including PILOT) also generally flat, the budget includes a series of revenue initiatives. These include an expansion of the parking management program consistent with recommendations coming out of the BOA Parking and Transit Working Group as well as solicitation for sale of city assets. The City's finance and budget team is working on a five-year strategic plan, in part to address major budget drivers like debt service and employee benefits.

While the Commission does not prepare a line-by-line review of the budget for every department, the Commission does note matters pertaining to city planning and supports the proposed budget items as they relate to the City Plan Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Historic District Commission. In addition, the proposed budget includes \$50,000 to support a complete count committee for the 2020 US Census. This is an important project for the City Plan Department with work to be carried out in collaboration with many community stakeholders.

The City's capital spending for the economic development group of departments is critical to keeping the momentum on projects that increase the grand list and the employment base, as well as provide services and training to New Haven residents seeking to enter or re-enter the work force. These capital funds are also used to match various federal and state grants to prepare long-range plans that promote further economic development and improve the quality of life for the city's residents. Highlights in FY20 include funding to support a food business accelerator and improvements on the City's main commercial corridors of Dixwell, Whalley and Grand Avenues. Of note the FY20 capital budget also supports ongoing digitization efforts to improve efficiency and long-range planning funding to support, among other projects, updates to the City's zoning code.

ADVICE

The Commission supports the proposed budgets for the City Plan Department and Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Historic District Commission as part of the orders submitted by the Mayor regarding the FY 2019-20 budgets. The Commission finds no conflict with city land use policies or the comprehensive plan.

ADOPTED: March 20, 2019
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: MPL
Michael Piscitelli, AICP
Interim Economic Development Administrator