

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Calling for a public hearing to review and discuss lowering the city speed limit to 20 miles per hour in the city's dense residential neighborhoods. (Alder Richard Furlow)

REPORT: 1527-07

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The general speed limit in the municipal limit of the City of New Haven is 25 mph except where otherwise designated. Alder Richard Furlow has submitted this Order in response to citizen concerns that the current speed limit is unsafe and poses a safety risk, especially in densely populated neighborhoods.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Studies have proven that lower vehicle speeds can have a significant impact on reducing the level of pedestrian injury. Slower street speeds are also associated with benefits such as more social connections, a stronger sense of community, reduced noise and stress levels, higher property values, more accessible walking, and better conditions for bicycling. The City's Comprehensive Plan emphasizes traffic calming measures and pedestrian-friendly development, both of which a lower speed limit would support. Finally, the proposed Order would not lower the speed limit itself, but would call for a public hearing to review and discuss, allowing time for more thorough research into the positives and negatives of making such a change.

ADVICE

The Commission finds the Order in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: February 15, 2017
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director