

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ORDINANCE AMENDMENT to the Code or Ordinances regarding the regulation of non-stormwater discharges to the municipal separate stormwater system as required by federal law. (City Engineer)

REPORT: 1516-06

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system that are not composed entirely of stormwater runoff contribute to increased nonpoint source pollution and degradation of receiving waters. Such non-stormwater discharges occur due to spills, dumping and improper connections to the municipal separate storm sewer system from residential, industrial, commercial, or institutional establishments. These non-stormwater discharges not only impact waterways individually, but geographically dispersed, small volume non-stormwater discharges can have cumulative impacts on receiving waters. The impacts of these discharges that adversely affect public health and safety, drinking water supplies, recreation, fish and other aquatic life, property values, and other uses of lands and waters can be minimized through the regulation of spills, dumping, and discharges into the municipal separate storm sewer system.

This ordinance is designed to minimize the contamination of New Haven's water bodies through monitoring, inspection and resolution of illegal non-stormwater discharges into our stormwater system. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect public health, safety, environment and general welfare through the regulation of non-stormwater discharges to the municipal separate stormwater system as required by federal law. The City's Municipal Small Separate Stormwater System (MS4) permit from the State of Connecticut requires the passage of an ordinance prohibiting illicit discharges. The proposed ordinance is based on a format provided by CT DEEP and is similar to the ordinance adopted by many other municipalities in CT. It gives the City the power to enforce the prohibition against illicit discharges and to force the offending party to remedy the situation.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the public health, safety, environment and general welfare through the regulation of non-stormwater discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system to the maximum extent practicable as required by Federal law. This ordinance establishes methods for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the municipal separate storm sewer system in order to comply with requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process. The objectives of this ordinance are to:

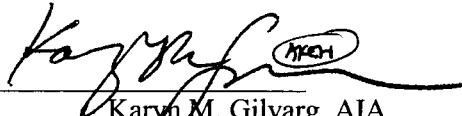
- (1) Regulate the contribution of pollutants to the municipal separate storm sewer system by any person;
- (2) Prohibit illicit discharges and illegal connections to the municipal separate storm sewer system;
- (3) Prevent non-stormwater discharges, generated as a result of spills, inappropriate dumping, or disposal to the municipal separate storm sewer system; and,
- (4) To establish legal authority to carry out all inspection, surveillance, monitoring, and enforcement procedures necessary to ensure compliance with this ordinance

ADVICE

The Commission finds the Ordinance Amendment in the best interest of the City and recommends approval. The Commission further recommends that the Ordinance be added to Chapter 25 of the New Haven Code of Ordinances.

ADOPTED: March 16, 2016
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:


Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director