

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** authorizing the application to and if awarded, the acceptance of a grant from the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) in the form of a grant award of \$20,000 to develop New Haven Commercial Industrial Toolbox (CIT), a manual for building the resilience of commercial industrial infrastructure in coastal hazardous areas. The grant award is to be matched by a commitment of \$10,000: the City's Economic Development Administration will contribute \$5,000, and the Economic Development Corporation of New Haven will contribute \$5,000. (Office of Development and Policy)

REPORT: 1513-13

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation ("CIRCA") Municipal Resilience Grant Program is a partnership between the University of Connecticut and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. CIRCA grants are awarded to municipalities and/or councils of government seeking innovative ways to build their resilience in the face of climate change. The award of this grant would allow New Haven to receive up to \$20,000 to assist in the creation of the New Haven Commercial Industrial Toolbox ("CIT"), a manual to assist the City's commercial industrial stakeholders in coastal hazardous areas.

Specifically, this grant will enable the City to do the following:

- Evaluate the needs of commercial industrial businesses in coastal hazardous areas
- Develop best practices in renovation, construction, and federal insurance to build the resiliency of infrastructure in commercial industry
- Distribute critical information and resources to local commercial industrial stakeholders
- Further serve the mission of the Program for Public Information
- Avoid loss of property and life in future instances of severe storms and flooding

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

CIT would empower New Haven businesses to take physical, legal, financial, and environmental expertise into account when enhancing the resilience of commercial infrastructure to severe weather. As a processing map for identifying and solving specific issues industrial stakeholders face in New Haven, CIT would close the information asymmetry between business owners and experts and accomplish numerous goals: (1) protect people and property, (2) ensure that federal flood insurance and disaster assistance are available, (3) save tax dollars, (4) avoid liability and lawsuits, and (5) reduce future flood losses.

This project will add significantly to the City's commercial industrial sector's resilience in the face of rising sea levels and increasingly severe storm and rainwater flooding. By improving the infrastructure of the City's commercial stakeholders, this grant will also help the City and local businesses alike to save money and avoid lawsuits in the aftermath of floods. Ultimately, this project will make the city safer for both residents and commercial industries.

The CIRCA Municipal Resilience Grant Program requires partial municipal funding, for which the City's Economic Development Administration and the Economic Development Corporation of New Haven will contribute \$5,000 each.

ADVICE

The Commission finds the grant application in the best interest of the city and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: December 16, 2015
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director