

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO SUBMIT AND ACCEPT FUNDING FROM AN APPLICATION TO THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING FOR HUD CDBG-DR FUNDING MADE AVAILABLE AS A RESULT OF HURRICANE SANDY
(Executive Director, Livable City Initiative and City Engineer)

REPORT:1497-07
ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Before the Board is a Resolution authorizing Mayor Harp to apply for funds and enter into an Agreement between the City and the Department of Housing of the State of Connecticut for CDBG-DR funds set aside by USHUD for Hurricane Sandy repairs and/or infrastructure improvements. Submitted by Erik Johnson, Executive Director of LCI with the Larry Smith of the City Engineering Department the application would fund storm drainage improvements and related necessary actions that would correct recurring flooding in and around the Church Street Housing development on Union Avenue in the Hill to Downtown area that has recently been the subject of a community planning effort.

CDBG-DR are federal funds allocated by the State to provide assistance to communities to support planning/mitigation, public facilities, and infrastructure projects to repair and bolster existing systems damaged by hurricane Sandy in order to increase resiliency against future storm damage.

The total amount of funding requested is \$31,500,000, allocated as follows:

Purpose	Amount
Design and Construction of Storm Water Drainage System along Route 34 and South Frontage Road	\$10,000,000
Design and Construction of Storm Water Retention System along Union Avenue	\$5,000,000
Temporary and Permanent Relocation Assistance for Church Street South Residents	\$5,000,000
Demolition of Existing Impacted Structures at Church Street South	\$5,000,000
Housing Subsidy for Creation of Replacement Units for Church Street South Residents	\$6,500,000

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

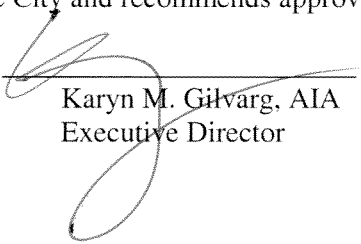
The City has experienced increased numbers and severity flooding events in roadways and in basements and first floors of structures in the drainage shed that encompasses portions of downtown both north and south of the South Frontage Road and Martin Luther King Boulevard. Union Avenue from near Water Street south to Church Street South has flooded as an underground junction chamber which accepts storm flow from two different collectors is overwhelmed by the volume of water. This can cause the entire 300-unit Church Street South Housing development severe vehicle and emergency access problems, while interior walkways and first floors are also experiencing flooding. Portions of the project will require relocation of residents and demolition of existing units which are in the 500-year flood plain. These portions of the site will have to be elevated in order to be redeveloped. In addition to this flooding, additional recurring flooding incidents have been documented at the Temple Street Garage, the

Tower One/Tower East elderly housing complex, the Police Station, 44 Crown Street and other buildings. The flooding problems will increase in frequency and severity with continuing climate change. The grant application proposes to explore and implement a solution at the level of the drainage shed for the storm system, which is the only effective way to achieve a long term solution.

ADVICE

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

ADOPTED: September 17, 2014
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director