NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: 77 BROADWAY (adjacent), Discontinuance and Abandonment of Portion

of City Right-of-Way of up to 182 Square Feet and Footing Easement (Yale

University).

REPORT: 1479-04 **ADVICE:** Approval

BACKGROUND

Before the Board is an Order seeking to facilitate the City's abandonment and discontinuance of an approximately one hundred eighty two (182) square foot area of the public right-of-way in front of 77 Broadway, a property owned by Yale University, in the Broadway shopping district. In addition to obtaining fee simple title to this parcel, the University also requests easements for below grade footings for the façade wall of a building addition to 77 Broadway. 77 Broadway is the former Yale Coop and now the Yale Bookstore. The area is shown in the submitted survey and architectural drawings.

The University wishes to acquire title to this area in order to extend the building storefront into it. 77 Broadway sits at the northern edge of an unbroken row of retail storefronts which commences at York Street and runs for nearly 225 yards. By allowing for a projection from the plane of the concrete wall of the bookstore into the sidewalk within the area to be abandoned, this building element will announce the beginning of the shopping district when approached from the north and west, and will draw the eye to it when approached from the south and east, indicating the extent of the district. The BA zone ends immediately north of 77 Broadway. The University proposes to compensate the City at fair market value as described in the proposed Order.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The area of the ROW proposed for discontinuance and abandonment is currently a portion of the public sidewalk. Sidewalks on this side (north) of Broadway are unusually generous, thanks in part to the redesign and rebuilding of the area carried out by University and the City in the early 1990's. In addition, in the area directly opposite (south of) the proposed abandonment there is a curb extension to facilitate a pedestrian crossing. The sidewalk width at the curb extension is approximately 44 feet, just beyond the extension, approximately 32 feet. The abandonment and discontinuance of the small strip proposed will not interfere with or constrain the use of the public sidewalk in this area.

FINDING AND ADVICE

As the discontinuance and abandonment of this small area of the Broadway ROW will not significantly impact the functioning of the public ROW for any of its current public uses the Commission recommends Approval.

ADOPTED: May 28, 2013

Edward Mattison

Chair

ATTEST:

Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA

Executive Director

