

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **PORT DISTRICT**, Authorization for application to and acceptance of a grant not to exceed \$600,000 from the Department of Homeland Security, Port Security Grant Program, to implement a wireless communications network to enable sharing of data among the three Connecticut ports (Chief Administrative Officer).

REPORT:1468-07

ADVICE:Approval

BACKGROUND

Before the Board is a request for authorization of a grant application to the Port Security Grant Program of the FEMA Department of Homeland Security for funding in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 to support a wireless connectivity project between the Ports of New Haven, Bridgeport and New London. This wireless infrastructure system is intended to unite through a series of wireless "hops" from Bridgeport through New Haven to Waterford/New London a connection enabling the three ports to view and monitor their own and the other ports' security cameras well as the sharing of data between the ports. This collaborative effort strives to create a resource management and response strategy that includes numerous missions and capabilities within the three port area.

This grant program makes available funds to implement projects that will protect, mitigate and enhance a response from incidents occurring in and affecting the Ports of Connecticut.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

By using the system already in place in New Haven, the point to point wireless network can be installed through wireless links or switches to enable connectivity to camera server locations in the other two ports. The "hops" can be positioned between municipal tower locations already available for public safety purposes, attempting to avoid use of commercial sites and towers which might require development agreements between municipalities and commercial tower owners. Once the system is in place, additional cameras can be added.

The network would be a shared asset among the three ports, their municipalities, and the U.S. Coast Guard Stations in New Haven and New London. A working group will be formed to help guide the Port wide strategy development process among emergency responders in the Port areas. It is proposed that New Haven serve as the administrative liaison for the Ports through the process. The City has requested a waiver for the 25% match requirement if it is able to commit currently budgeted resources in staff time, research and development and grant administration in lieu of the fiscal match. The Chief Administrator's Office would perform the grant administration. Should the waiver not be granted, the City will not accept the funds. Each port would be responsible for maintenance of its individual system, camera licensing and any additional software or hardware purchase beyond the scope of the initial project.

ADVICE

The Commission supports the concept of the State's Ports collaboration on measures which will contribute to the safety and security of our citizens and therefore recommends approval.

ADOPTED: July 18, 2012
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director