

**NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT**

**RE:** **STREET LIGHTING**, Authorization for Acceptance of Incentives and Financing for Energy Efficiency Projects from the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (City Engineer).

**REPORT:**1470-12

**ADVICE:** Approval

**BACKGROUND**

Before the Board is a request from the City Engineer to accept assistance from the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund for a project to convert the City’s 1,800 streetlights to LED fixtures over the next three years. CEEF provides incentives and financing for energy efficiency projects for electric ratepayers through its provider, the United Illuminating Company. The Municipal Energy Opportunities Program offers a combination of incentives and zero-percent on-bill financing to spur the adoption of energy-efficient technologies in the public sector.

The Resolution before the Board if approved will authorize the Mayor to enter into agreements with the United Illuminating Company and/or the CT Energy Efficiency Fund for projects related to the illumination of City streets and other City property. Since the City owns and maintains its own street lighting system and infrastructure, it can control its lighting expenditures most effectively.

**PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**

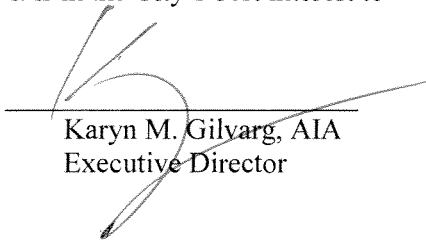
LED (light-emitting diode) technology has numerous advantages over the existing high-pressure sodium technology for both energy efficiency and public safety as listed in the submittal letter. LED fixtures consume 50-60% less electricity, produce a whiter brighter light which lights the roadway and not the night, require less maintenance, and have a significantly longer life (100,000 hours).

The incentives offered by CEEF would be payments on the purchase and installation of efficient equipment to offset the project cost. The financing would involve requesting up to \$400,000 in no-cost on-bill financing per calendar year, to be repaid over 36 months without interest, to be handled through the regular UI monthly invoice. As the simple payback period for the energy savings from the fixtures is also approximately three years, the on-bill financing would be overall cost neutral for the first three years, following by significant reductions in street lighting costs after that. Over the first five years, the project will save an estimated \$200,000 with approximate savings of \$100,000 per year to follow.

**ADVICE**

As the City is committed to energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to reduce energy costs and protect the environment, the Commission believes it is in the City’s best interest to adopt the Resolution and recommends approval.

**ADOPTED:** October 17, 2012  
Roy Smith, Jr.  
Vice Chair

**ATTEST:**   
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA  
Executive Director