

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: 2012-2013 CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN, Statement of Activities and use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for federal financial assistance for planning and community development activities under the provisions of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended (PL93-383); the Cranston Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 as amended (PL101-625); the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2000 as amended (PL 106-400); the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009; and the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (PL102-550); hereafter referred to as "Housing and Community Development Program Acts" and for activities to be funded by program income and/or reprogramming funds from prior grant years (Mayor DeStefano).

REPORT:1462-05

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Mayor is presenting for Aldermanic approval his recommended Consolidated Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan ("Annual Action Plan") for FY 2012-2013. The Annual Action Plan includes proposed activities to be funded by the following federal programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG). Recommendations adhere to the guidelines, objectives and procedures set forth in the City's local Citizen Participation Plan and the Five Year Consolidated Housing and Community Development Strategy and Plan for 2010 through 2014. The Five Year Plan serves as a strategy and planning document that guides the budget and funding allocation process for HUD-funded community development and housing activities.

HUD requires the submission of a planning document incorporating housing and non-housing community development strategies in a consolidated plan to be prepared in accordance with the process prescribed in 24CFR Part 91.

The Annual Consolidated Action Plan submitted to the Board by the Mayor, along with FY 2012-2013 budget recommendations, includes activities to be funded by funds reprogrammed and/or program income from prior years' Community Development Block Grant activities. Prior to submission of this Plan to HUD, the Mayor and other public officials have heard citizen views of housing and community development needs. In the recent past, a Citizen Participation Plan along with information and data regarding the activities the City will undertake and carry out during the coming year with the financial assistance received from HUD was also presented to the Board and approved.

The Annual Action Plan has been available in the office of the City/Town Clerk, 200 Orange Street, for at least thirty-five days for the purpose of public inspection. In February, March, and April 2012, the Board of Aldermen acting through the joint committee on Community

Development and Human Resources has held and will continue to hold public hearings pursuant to notices published in accordance with Public Act no. 75-443. During this time, the views of the public with respect to the strategies, objectives, and community development activities proposed in the Annual Action Plan will be communicated to the Board.

The Board will either receive written comments on the Annual Action Plan from the New Haven City Plan Commission, the New Haven Housing Authority, the LCI Loan Advisory Committee, the New Haven Development Commission, or, has allowed such agencies thirty days to review such plans. The Board has also received or has provided the opportunity for written communications from various City officials and members of the general public regarding this Plan.

The Board is cognizant of the conditions imposed upon the Mayor and the City with respect to undertaking and carrying out community development activities under the provisions of the Housing and Community Development programs and Public Act no. 75-443. It is necessary that the Board take appropriate official action respecting the City's Annual Action Plan statement of activities and use of funds, which forms part of the application to the Department of Housing and Community Development programs.

The Mayor's proposed budget for FY 2012-2013 reflects anticipated federal revenues available for each program. The national budget for these programs is subject to change, pending Congressional authorization and approval by the President. **The totals requested in each category are as follows: CDBG: \$3,673,534; HOME: \$1,487,895; ESG: \$292,032; and HOPWA: \$989,999.** These requests are less than in 2011-2012 due to the diminished anticipated federal revenues.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The Commission by custom does not undertake a line-by-line review of the Consolidated Plan. However, certain aspects of the budget and Plan are of particular interest to the Commission as they advance the overall efforts of sound land use planning, environmental protection, neighborhood revitalization and economic development.

Of note, the Commission favors the continued development of the Comprehensive Plan. In the coming year, City Plan proposes to work on a number of projects/initiatives in support of the current plan (adopted in 2003) such as zoning revisions, neighborhood planning and revitalization. Specific activities will include planning for Downtown Crossing/Route 34 East, Regional Gaps Analysis Planning Study for HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative grant, Route 34 West Incentive Housing Zone (IHZ) Study, Waterfront Strategic Planning including Long Wharf Park and Boathouse Plan, GIS Mapping and Design, and HUD Environmental Clearances.

The ten-year update to the Comprehensive Plan is due for adoption in 2013 based on Connecticut General Statutes § 295-302. City Plan is currently working on preparing a Data Book for the Plan. In the coming year, the department will continue to work on this Plan Update document by conducting public outreach and detailed analysis of various planning topics.

As the Mayor notes in his submission letter, the City will work to meet the challenge of providing services and programs to its residents while struggling to balance its financial resources as the country continues to face difficult and trying economic times. It is clear that the climate of this community and communities across the nation have been affected this year by rising unemployment rates, housing foreclosures, business closures, and job layoffs.

Furthermore, reprogramming funds from any CDBG public service contracts not executed by December 1, 2012 will be allocated only to organizations that have submitted applications for CDBG public service funding in 2012-2013.

The recommended FY 2012-2013 Annual Action Plan continues to promote neighborhood stability; provide programs for individuals to help achieve a better quality of life, and support New Haven's long range community development efforts. Programs and services in the Annual Action Plan include providing affordable housing opportunities on a variety of configurations, improved public facilities, safe parks, and public spaces. Recommendations also ensure the availability of needed public services and supportive programs for all residents, with priority given to the support of special needs populations and homeless services, including job training and youth programs. Implementation of the proposed Plan will address gaps in critically needed services as identified within the draft Five Year Consolidated Plan.

ADVICE:

The Commission approves the goals and objectives of the Consolidated Annual Action Plan 2012-2013 without reference to particular amounts.

ADOPTED: March 21, 2012
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:


Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director