

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ACADEMY AND CHAPEL STREETS (corner), Designation as "Alderwoman Luisa DeLauro Corner" to honor former Alderwoman Luisa DeLauro (Alderman Smart).
REPORT: 1453-09
ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

First elected to the New Haven Board of Aldermen in 1965, Luisa DeLauro served with great distinction on the Board for 35 years, displaying an extraordinary enthusiasm, tenacity, and effectiveness in working to improve the lives of those in the Wooster Square area and throughout New Haven. Greatly respected by her colleagues, Luisa DeLauro was referred to fondly as "The Dean of the Board of Aldermen" and had an illustrious career on the city's legislative body. She compiled a record of public service in tirelessly representing the people of New Haven's Wooster Square neighborhood, where she is still known with great affection as "The Mayor of Wooster Square." Luisa took special pride in having sponsored legislation in 1971 that designated Wooster Square as New Haven's first historic district.

A lifelong resident of her beloved community, DeLauro was a tremendously active and positive force in the civic and political life of New Haven for many decades. Along with her late husband Ted and her daughter Rosa, the area's Congresswoman, DeLauro has been an integral part of an inspiring family tradition of public service committed to giving tirelessly of themselves to build a better and more just community and city for all. To honor this exemplary public servant in the heart of Wooster Square neighborhood that she cherishes, her grateful and admiring neighbors and city residents have completed the necessary petition to satisfy the procedure for corner naming.

Street corners may be named in accord with Section 18-2 of the Code of Ordinances where a procedure is defined, including submission of a site plan showing location of all structures and street features, a plan for the sign drawn to scale, a petition of at least 250 city resident signatures (of which 2/3 must be neighborhood residents), and a fee paid (\$250).

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The Commission believes it is fully appropriate to name the corner in Wooster Square after this devoted civil servant. The involved parties should work with the Department of Transportation, Traffic and Parking (TTP) on a site plan and wording for the sign which should easily fit on a standard sign block. Since TTP is responsible for creating, installing and maintaining such signs, it is important that a final design is developed in consultation with TTP.

Under city ordinance, 250 city residents, with at least two-thirds from the affected neighborhood, must sign a petition in favor of a corner naming. Commission staff observes that there are 337 signatures on the petition supporting the designation of the corner of Academy Street and Chapel Street as "Alderwoman Luisa DeLauro Corner" and that at least two-thirds of the signatures are of neighborhood residents. Staff believes this is sufficient to comply with Section 18-2 of the Code of Ordinances. Staff is unaware if the fee had been paid.

ADVICE

Approval with Department of Transportation, Traffic and Parking to approve final sign design, location and installation.

ADOPTED: June 15, 2011
Roy Smith, Jr.
Vice Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director