

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **CONSOLIDATED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FY 2011-2012** including proposed activities to be funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) community programs (Mayor DeStefano).

REPORT: 1449-12

ADVICE: Approval of Plan Goals and Objectives

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 2011-2012 and the update of the Analysis of Impediments for Fair Housing. 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).

The Annual Action Plan submitted to the Board by the Mayor, along with FY 2011-2012 budget recommendations for support of community programs, contains 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 will have heard citizen views of housing and community development needs. The Annual Action Plan is on file at the office of the City/Town Clerk, 200 Orange Street, for the purpose of public inspection. In February, March, and April 2011, the Board of Aldermen acting through the joint committee on Community Development and Human Resources will hold public hearings pursuant to notices published in accordance with Public Act 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 (this report serves as such comments), 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 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. Due to possible delays by the federal government regarding grant funding applications, retroactive agreements may be required in order to cover services for the entire current grant year.

The Mayor's proposed budget for FY 2011-2012 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: \$3,891,395 (down from \$4,555,669 last year); HOME: \$1,760,700; ESG: \$191,255; and HOPWA: \$1,022,573.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

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

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.


The recommended FY 2011-2012 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 2010 through 2014.

Of note, the Commission favors continued development of the Comprehensive Plan. The next update to the Comprehensive Plan as required by State mandates is 2013. In the coming year, City Plan will be working on a number of projects/initiatives in support of the plan including zoning revisions, data collection, and neighborhood planning and revitalization. Specific activities will include the Route 34 Medical District Plan, a regional sustainability plan which will result in better integrated land use and an environmental decision making process, and waterfront strategic planning.

ADVICE:

The Commission recommends approval of the goals and objectives of the consolidated Annual Action Plan 2011-2012 without reference to particular amounts, and it supports the continuation of the comprehensive planning effort.

ADOPTED: February 16, 2011
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director