

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: 200 ORANGE STREET, Authorization to enter into a contract with the Connecticut Department of Public Health for the purpose of storing Diethylenetriaminepentaacetate (DTPA) (Chief Administrative Officer).

REPORT: 1451-10

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Chief Administrative Officer Robert Smuts requests the Board's authorization to enter into a contract with the Connecticut Department of Public Health to store a medication known as Diethylenetriaminepentaacetate (DTPA) for dispensation to New Haven residents and residents of State Emergency Management and Homeland Security Region 2 in the situation when there is sudden exposure to radiation. DTPA is a chelating agent, a type of medicine that will bind and hold onto radioactive materials that enter the body and decrease the amount of time it takes to remove the materials from the body through urination.

Sudden increased levels of radiation can come through a "Dirty bomb", a radiological threat also known as a Radiological Dispersion Device (RDD). The device uses common explosives to spread radioactive materials over a target area. The force of the RDD explosion and radioactive contamination are more localized than in a nuclear blast, requiring trained personnel with specialized equipment on scene to identify and limit exposure, particularly to airborne radioactive dust and ingestion of contaminated foods and liquids.

The contract requires that the medication be stored in a secure location within the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the basement of 200 Orange Street and be accessible only to certain authorized persons for dispensation and transport by accredited means of transportation to one or more Treatment Centers around the State (32 Acute Care Hospitals and 13 Federally Qualified Community Health Centers), depending on the location and extent of the RDD event.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

DTPA comes two ways: Ca-DTPA, a sodium salt of calcium and Zn-DTPA, a sodium salt of zinc, both which come in clear glass single-use ampoules for intravenous use. The location at the City's Emergency Operations Center would be strictly for storage and administration. The storage of the DTPA will be at no cost to the City.

ADVICE

The Commission advocates emergency situation readiness and believes the EOC is the best location for storage of the DTPA, should the area be subjected to a Dirty Bomb. It therefore recommends that the Board approve the contract with the CT Department of Public Health.

ADOPTED: April 20, 2011
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director