

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **REGIONAL INDOOR FIRING RANGE**, Application to and acceptance of \$225,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, 2010 COPS Technology Grant Program (Assistant Chief of Police Redding).

REPORT: 1442-13

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The New Haven Police Department has submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) 2010 Technology Grant Program for a grant of \$225,000 to develop a plan for an indoor firing range for New Haven police and for other law enforcement officials currently using the existing outdoor range. The new facility would ideally be able to simulate various environmental conditions, maintain officer safety, and improve training and practice opportunities. It would be used as the New Haven Police Department's main firearms training facility.

The funding from the COPS program will be used for researching the optimum facility and technology that would be used for firearms practice to maintain law enforcement certification and training. This planning grant would help determine the exact nature and frequency of use of the range, the range's ideal location, and the possibility of leveraging funding for building and outfitting the facility. The COPS technology grant was set aside for New Haven through a congressional earmark; now, to receive this funding, the Police Department must formally apply to the program.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The current outdoor firing range, located at 710 Sherman Avenue, is in a RM-2 zone near city residential neighborhoods. Residents of the neighborhood adjacent to the range have complained about living with the sound of gunshots. The current range also may have a negative environmental impact due to the thousands of rounds of lead being shot into the hill behind the range. An indoor range with the latest technology would help to mitigate potential environmental issues as well as the noise of gunshots during the day and evening.

ADVICE

Approval.

ADOPTED: July 21, 2010
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:


Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director