

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**, Amend Code of Ordinances pertaining to notification of non-alcoholic (juice bar) events by café owners and police cost reimbursement (Chief Administrative Officer).

REPORT: 1439-09

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Robert Smuts, the City's Chief Administrative Officer, has submitted to the Board of Aldermen an Ordinance amendment requiring business establishments holding café licenses to provide the Chief of Police or his/her designee with prior notification, in writing, whenever a juice bar or similar facility is to be offered to the public. The ordinance would further allow the City to seek reimbursement from the business establishment for police overtime costs incurred.

A "juice bar or similar facility" is defined in Section 30-22c of the Connecticut General Statutes as a café, or an area within a café, in which nonalcoholic beverages are served to minors. The holder of a café permit may operate a juice bar or similar facility at a permit premises if the juice bar is limited to an area of the premises wherein there is no sale, consumption, dispensing or presence of alcoholic liquor. A "café permit" allows the retail sale of alcoholic liquor to be consumed on premises provided the café shall regularly keep food available for sale to its customers for consumption on premises.

The ordinance requires the café permit holder to notify the Police Chief in writing in advance of specific dates and hours of any scheduled event to be held at a juice bar or similar facility at least 48 hours prior to such event. The Police Chief would then assign a police officer to attend the event at the cost of the café permit holder.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The legislation has been proposed here in New Haven as there have been numerous juice bar type events held at cafes primarily in the downtown area where disturbances have warranted a police presence. To date such police presence has been a City cost, often at overtime rates for police officers. In a time when the City is attempting to balance its budget and relieve its taxpayers of unwarranted expenses, the ordinance appears reasonable. The ordinance is in concert with Chapter 545 (Liquor Control Act), Section 30-22c of the CT General Statutes.

ADVICE

Provided the Corporation Counsel has found the proposed ordinance amendment acceptable, the Commission recommends approval.

ADOPTED: April 21, 2010
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director