

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: 786 CHAPEL STREET, Authorization for Sign over City Sidewalk (Wireless Wizard).
REPORT: 1439-15
ADVICE: Approval with Conditions

BACKGROUND

In behalf of Wireless Wizard, Barbara Diaz has petitioned the Board of Aldermen to install a sign which encroaches over the public right of way. The sign is proposed to be a banner style blade sign hung between black metal brackets extending out from the façade of the building at 786 Chapel Street in the block between Orange and Chapel Streets. The banner sign is 3' wide by 6' in height and is proposed to hang at least 12' above the sidewalk projecting 36" over the public right of way. The sign, stated to be double-sided lusterboard with custom full color vinyl graphics, will be laminated for outdoor durability to hang between top and bottom 40" triangle ball blade sign brackets. The brackets will be black and will be installed on the concrete building façade with concrete bolts.

Note: The Commission previously denied a sign due to its excessive size, questionable stability in windy conditions and its inappropriateness for location in an historic district (1437-26, 02/17/10).

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The Board of Aldermen controls encroachments on the public right-of-way under the general authority of Section 49 of the Charter and Section 9-2 of the Code or Ordinances. The Commission advises the Board in considering proposals for appurtenances over City sidewalks, and looks at suitability of design, scale, durability of product and its supports, quality of construction materials, and height above the sidewalk in the light of potential vandalism. In cases where the location is within a Historic District or the building is historic in nature, the Commission looks further at whether the appurtenance is complimentary to the architecture of the building. #786 Chapel Street is a contributing building within the Ninth Square National Register Historic District, and its owner has applied for Façade Grant funding from the City. The sign with its metal brackets appears to be in keeping with the historic district and does not detract from the historic nature of the building. The portion of the building to be leased to Wireless Wizard is only 16'-6" wide.

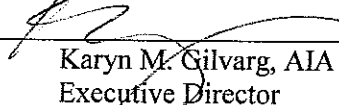
The City requires an indemnity agreement where the City is held harmless from damages. The submitted certificate does not cover an installation at this address but one in Bridgeport. A current public liability insurance certificate acceptable to the City's Corporation Counsel is required.

ADVICE

The City Plan Commission recommends approval of the proposed sign as shown in the submitted plans with the following conditions:

1. Total signage on the building frontage shall be in accord with the New Haven Zoning Ordinance.
2. The applicant shall maintain a **current** and continuous public liability certificate of insurance, acceptable to the City's Corporation Counsel.
3. The City reserves the right to revoke the privilege for the sign if hazardous to pedestrians using the sidewalk or not maintained in good repair and clean condition, or the Certificate of Liability Insurance lapses.

ADOPTED: April 21, 2010
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director