

## NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

**RE:** 290 YORK STREET, Authorization for Sign over Public Sidewalk (FASTSIGNS for Labyrinth Books).  
**REPORT:** 1437-17  
**ADVICE:** Approval with Conditions

### BACKGROUND

FASTSIGNS has petitioned the Board of Aldermen for a projecting sign for Labyrinth Books, a business at 290 York Street. The sign will be a scroll type 2-sided sign to be mounted on the outside wall of the building as it faces York Street. The sign itself is 36" long and 24" high and will be installed at a height of 8.5' above the sidewalk. The building has three arches on its façade where the actual façade is recessed 6" to the rear of the arches. The sign will therefore project 30" over the sidewalk. The sign will be aluminum composite with cut graphic vinyl, and it will be hung from a steel decorative scroll bar that will be bolted with lag bolts into the building wall.

### 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. The sign appears to be constructed of durable materials at an adequate height above the sidewalk. The building at 290 York Street is listed on the City's Historic Resources Inventory, and the bracket design appears in keeping with the historic nature of the building. However, the sign's content with telephone number in large text may **not** be in keeping with the nature and feel of York Street in this neighborhood, and the applicant may wish to reconsider the content of the text on the sign.

The City requires an indemnity agreement where the City is held harmless from damages. A public liability insurance certificate acceptable to the City's Corporation Counsel is required. The Commission notes that while the submitted insurance certificate is current, it may not be in an amount acceptable to the City's Corporation Counsel.

### 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, in an amount 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:** February 17, 2010  
Edward Mattison  
Chair

**ATTEST:**   
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA  
Executive Director