

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: PORT OF NEW HAVEN, Authorization for application to and acceptance of a 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Port Security Grant in the amount of \$2,089,629 to enhance the Security and Safety within the Port District (Chief Administrative Officer).

REPORT: 1431-08

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The City of New Haven and its Port Authority is looking to fund 3 projects in the port:

1. Implement a wireless video security network to cover the Port Authority grounds and facilities and enhance the infrastructure of the existing video monitoring of the Port of New Haven, key infrastructure sites and critically located bridges.
2. Purchase and install new lighting poles and footings at 16 locations within the Port District. This improved lighting will serve to provide greater illumination in the Port.
3. The design, site preparation, materials and installation of 4,700 linear ft. of security fencing for greater access control which will include granite curbing, rolling gates and access control card reader.

The proposed wireless video security network system will make drastic improvements to security, risk reduction and public safety. The purchases will be strategically located throughout the Port Authority property and within the grounds and complex areas. It will be designed to provide maximum security, flexibility and enhance a secure and risk free atmosphere. The camera system will directly impact prevention and response for the Police Department and Coast Guard. The additional bridge and harbor cameras will enhance coverage and security capabilities at key locations. Because the Police Department is the primary respondent of layered security in the Port they will aid in determining the final and optimal placement of certain cameras.

The installation of new lighting poles in the City will serve to provide greater illumination in the Port. Currently there is no pole lighting on the Port property. This property is currently used as lay down area for cargo transiting the Port. Because of the activities in the Port District, it is essential that electrical service be placed underground. The responsibilities of the vendor will be all inclusive, from design to final implementation in accordance with criteria established in the Request for Proposals (RFP). All lighting will meet applicable Occupational Safety & Health requirements and all are full cut off energy efficient. The contractor is expected to hire staff sufficient enough to complete project. Approximately 10-12 people, from laborers to equipment operators and electricians, will be needed to work on this project. The installation of these 16 poles will also serve as platforms for the mounting of surveillance cameras proposed. These two investments can be made as being interdependent on each other.

The Port District benefits from proximity to the regional highway network; the configuration of the I-95 & I91, the existing development in the Port District and the close proximity of residential neighborhoods, which together intensify demand for secure available land and the safety and security concerns of the residents. The terminal operators have indicated a need and desire to expand within the Port District, specifically for staging and lay down areas. With this proposed fencing, the City will meet the concerns of the residential neighborhood by preventing unauthorized persons access into the Port and delineate and control portions of land that may become accessible for use by the port facilities.

Therefore, the Chief Administrative Officer of the City respectfully requests the Board of Aldermen to authorize the Mayor of the City of New Haven to submit an application to the 2009 ARRA-Port Security in an amount of \$2,089,629 and to accept such funds if offered and execute all documents and contracts as necessary. Of the \$2,089,629 grant money, \$ 112,134 is the cost of camera equipment and \$97,495 is allocated for its installation by outside contractor, \$890,000 will be used for the installation of lighting project, and \$990,000 will be used for the installation of access control/fencing both of which will be contracted out. This item will not result in any new revenues for the City. However, several temporary construction jobs will be generated. No local matching funds are required.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The City of New Haven owns a 13-acre right-of-way for the East Shore Parkway. It is available on a month to month basis to Gateway Terminal and Logistec/Coastline. An aspect identified in the City's land use plan is to transfer East Shore property to the Port Authority, which they will lease for port storage and lay down areas. The proposed fencing will extend down Connecticut Avenue, which abuts East Shore Park thereby creating a barrier to limit or eliminate public access during increased levels of security.

In New Haven's Strategic land use plan, improvements to the East Shore Parkway site include better roadway access, lighting, utility poles and installation of perimeter fencing and gates, which would improve the site's overall utility and capacity.

Without the proposed fencing, the City/Port Authority would have to hire police department personnel on an overtime basis or hire an outside security service in order to prohibit access in times of heightened security.

ADVICE
Approval

ADOPTED: August 19, 2009
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Joy W. Ford
Planner