

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO APPLY FOR, ACT AS PASS THROUGH FOR, AND ACCEPT A GRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$550,000.00) FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REHABILITATION OF 333 VALLEY STREET
(Submitted by: Arlevia Samuel, Director - LCI)

REPORT: 1608-10

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

The community center located at 333 Valley Street in West Hills has not been operational in over 30 years. This is one example of the disinvestment of the West Hills neighborhood and the resulting challenges and lack of community-building opportunities for residents.

In 2021, the City was awarded an Urban Act Grant in the amount of \$550,000 from the Connecticut State Office of Policy and Management to combat the quality-of-life issues in the community. The grant's procurement process requires the City's involvement for 333 Valley Street Intergenerational Organization, Inc. to receive the grant funding for rehabilitation and operation of 333 Valley Street.

333 Valley Street Intergeneration Organization, Inc. is a community organization whose mission is to empower adults through literacy. Accordingly, they seek to further enhance their operation by providing:

- An afterschool program;
- Mentoring program;
- Music program;
- Ambassador youth program with stipends;
- Game room;
- Gardening program;
- Jobs;
- Intergenerational program;
- Literacy Program;
- Create a library; and
- Establish a partnership with New Haven Read and Stetson Library.

The City's Livable City Initiative ventures to partner with grassroots organizations to maintain stewardship of parcels such as this site. Accordingly, LCI seeks approval from the Board of Alders to accept \$550,000 in grant funding.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

In accordance with Title I, Article XIII, Section 2(A) of the New Haven Code of Ordinances states, **"Every Ordinance or Resolution of the Board of Alders relating to the location and use of any street, bridge, boulevard, esplanade, square, park, playground, playfield, aviation field, parking space, public building, [community facility], the facilities or terminals of any public utility, or the establishment or change in the boundaries of or regulations concerning zoning, shall be at once referred to the City Planning Commission and final action shall not be taken on any such Ordinance or Resolution until the commission shall have reported thereon, provided that the Board of Alders may establish by ordinance a period of not less than sixty (60) Days within which the commission shall file its report with the City Clerk and if no report is filed within such period the approval of the commission shall be presumed."** Accordingly, the Board of Alders seeks guidance regarding the proposed amendment.

The Board of Alder seeks guidance as to:

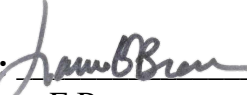
- Whether the proposal is aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- The City's Comprehensive Plan states, as a goal, to **"Connect neighborhoods to support services, community facilities, open space and recreational facilities."**

ADVICE

The proposal is aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan because it:

- Continues to foster partnership between the City and community organization.
- Improves the quality of life.
- Continues to support and maintain existing cultural facilities, programs, and events.
- Creates a community facility within an area of the City that is currently underserved by such facilities.
- **"Assess the feasibility of re-using existing vacant or promoting community interaction and addressing indoor recreational and healthy exercise needs of residents, to the extent feasible."** (The Comprehensive Plan of Development)
- Fosters a greater "sense of place" and neighborhood pride.
- Beautifies the community.
- Fosters intergenerational socialization.

ADOPTED: May 18, 2022
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST: 

Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department