

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS designating the corner of 1375 State Street ‘Apostle Bernice Gibbs Way,’ in perpetuity, for her love, commitment, contributions, and service to residents in the Cedar Hill, Fair Haven neighborhoods, and citywide.

Submitted by: Alder Anna M Festa

REPORT: 1615-10

ADVICE: Approve with conditions.

BACKGROUND

This request comes from the Board of Alders regarding an ordinance to designate the corner located at 1375 State Street as “Apostle Bernice Gibbs Way” to honor her many contributions to the New Haven community. According to Section 18-2(a)(3) of Title III, Chapter 18, Article I of the City’s Code requires, “**Each submission shall contain:**

- (i) **Plan of the site of the proposed location indicating all structures and street features as well as the proposed signage drawn to scale for review by the city.**
- (ii) **Proposed wording of the signage.**
- (iii) **A petition of at least two hundred fifty (250) city resident signatures in favor of the proposed naming, of which at least two-thirds (2/3 (one hundred sixty-six ((166)) shall be residents of the neighborhood of the proposed sign location.”**

Since 1987 Apostle Gibbs has been selflessly serving the New Haven community providing childcare, summer programs, food pantries, and toys for Christmas distributions in the Newhall community.

In 1993 she moved to the Cedar Hill and Fair Haven communities where she began to work with the homeless and substance abuse populations and continues to work tirelessly to provide safe housing for recovery. She also provides weekly recovery group meetings and case management assistance regarding employment and independent living skills. Apostle Gibbs has also partnered with Advanced Behavioral Health (ABH), the Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC), and various community programs in New Haven County.

She provides weekly food pantries and has continued this much needed and appreciated effort throughout the Covid-19 pandemic in both the Cedar Hill and Fair Haven communities. Through her hard work, vision, leadership, and deep commitment, Apostle Bernice Gibbs has honorably and graciously served individuals in the community by making a difference in their lives.

A petition of at least two hundred fifty (250) city resident signatures in favor of the proposed naming has been submitted.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This proposal 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, 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.
- Whether the proposal is “complete” and meets the criteria set forth in Section 18-2(a)(3) of Title III, Chapter 18, Article I of the City Code.

ADVICE

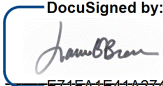
The proposal is aligned with the City’s Comprehensive Plan because it:

- Fosters a greater “sense of place” and neighborhood pride.

However, prior to the Board of Alders rendering any decisions, the Planning Commission suggests having the applicant meet Section 18-2(a)(3) of the City Code by providing the following as required:

- A plan of the site of the proposed location indicating all structures and street features as well as the proposed signage drawn to scale for review by the city.

ADOPTED: August 17, 2022
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST:  September 1, 2022 | 3:5
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Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department