

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept funding from the State of Connecticut and the United States Department of Housing for improvements to the East Rock Sports Complex
Submitted by: Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer

REPORT: 1619-01

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

There are three potential funding sources for improvements to the East Rock Sports Complex, including Rice Field, Cross Athletic Complex, and Blake Field. These improvements will address the condition of football, baseball, soccer, tennis, basketball, and track facilities in at least two phases.

The first funding source is \$1.1M allocated by the State of Connecticut through the Department of Education and the Office of School Construction Grants and Review. This funding will follow the protocols of the school construction program, including the oversight of the Citywide School Construction Committee established by the Board of Alders.

The second funding source is \$1.5M allocated by the State of Connecticut at the July 29, 2022 meeting of the Connecticut Bond Commission and administered through the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

The third funding source is a potential \$750k allocation from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Congressionally Directed Spending program per the request of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. This CDS request would be included in federal spending bills due to pass in late 2022 or early 2023, and as such is still subject to a certain level of uncertainty.

In concert with local alders and the state delegation, the City has undertaken public outreach regarding the project and incorporated many comments from the public. The first round of improvements targeting the Cross field and Rice fields is slated for 2023 ahead of the 2023-2024 school year if approved.

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, [grant funding], 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.

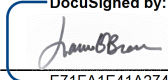
- The City’s Comprehensive Plan states, as a goal, to **“Connect residents to quality outdoor recreation.”**

ADVICE

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

- Improves outdoor recreation space
- Repairs deteriorated infrastructure
- Connects residents to the waterfront (Mill River)

ADOPTED: October 26, 2022
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST:  November 18, 2022 | 4:30
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Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department