

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** of the City of New Haven approving the Parks & Public Works Department to apply for and accept \$37,000 from the Connecticut Urban Forest Council.

Submitted by: Annie Mixsell, Tree Warden

REPORT: 1629-15

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Parks and Public Works requests authorization to apply for and accept \$37,000 from the Connecticut Urban Forest Council's "The Urban Forestry Climate Change Grant Program" application.

The tree inventory completed in partnership with URI over the summer identified: 133 standing dead trees, 397 trees in very poor condition, and 483 stumps across six Environmental Justice communities (the Hill, Cedar Hill, Fair Haven, Dwight, West River, and the Annex). Funds from this grant would be used for contractor crews to remove risk trees and grind stumps so that progress can be made in replacing trees in the neighborhoods most experiencing the negative impacts of low urban canopy cover. The Parks and Public Works Department is very fortunate to have six full-time tree trimmers on staff. Unfortunately, the backlog of high priority risk mitigation tree work (dead, diseased, structurally unsound trees), declining tree health due to a changing climate, and stronger, more frequent storms supersedes the stump grinding and maintenance pruning and limits the number of days in which a stump grinding crew is available.

The Department will partner with the Urban Resource Initiative (URI) to prioritize locations where a tree adopter has been waiting for a new tree, but the removal of a stump or dead tree is a barrier to replacement. URI and the City will also work together to solicit more tree adopters in locations where a tree and stump are to be removed.

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, 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.

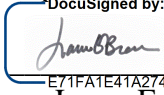
The Board of Alder seeks guidance as to whether the proposal is aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

ADVICE

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

- Meets the Vision 2025 goal to grow existing tree canopy in New Haven by identifying parcels or blocks with minimal or no tree canopy and relatively large amount of impervious surface and planting street trees in such areas.
- Meets the Vision 2025 goal to continue to retain existing trees, to the extent possible, and aim at further increasing the tree canopy to improve aesthetics and public health, as well as mitigate adverse effects of air pollution.
- Meets the Vision 2025 goal to continue to foster partnership between the City and URI.

ADOPTED: March 15, 2023
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST:  March 20, 2023 | 2:15 PM EDT
E71FA1E41A27483...
Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department