

## NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

**RE:** Resolution of the New Haven Board of Alders authorizing the City to apply for and accept a grant from the US Department of Energy for the Buildings Upgrade Prize (Building Up) in the amount of \$400,000, to partner with Earth Forward Group, LLC to support the design and the implementation of the Decarbonize Fair Haven Program, and to increase energy efficiency improvements for residents located in the Fair Haven neighborhood

**Submitted by:** Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator

**REPORT:** 1633-11

**ADVICE:** Approve.

### BACKGROUND

The City's Small Contractor Development (SCD) Program partnered last year with Earth Forward Group (EFG) to develop a Climate Conscience Contractor training program. The EFG team of professionals, with specialized knowledge in energy efficiency, renewable energy, green building construction, weatherization, energy tracking, monitoring, and sustainability management, evaluated the City's SCD contractors' needs, and a successful training program ensued.

The US Department of Energy (USDOE) Building UP program offers SCD the opportunity with EFG to provide residents of the Fair Haven community (who have a very high energy burden) services and information training to contractors to build the capacity of a local workforce, as well as to connect residents with home energy audits, healthy home evaluations, rebates, and incentives for technology upgrades and other funding resources to make the program low to no cost. Our goal is to Engage, Educate, and Empower to drive down energy cost and improve energy use and indoor air quality.

The USDOE has made funding available for which the City may apply for this purpose. The approval of the Board of Alders to apply for and accept available grant funds from USDOE will allow the City to partner with the EFG in commencing with developing this program to drive down energy cost and use.

### 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.*

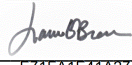
### ADVICE

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

- Meets the Vision 2025 goal to expand existing energy efficiency programs and seek funding for new programs.

- Meets the Vision 2025 goal of continued commitment to sustainable environmental policy and a systematic approach to energy efficiency and development of renewable energy resources to further improve air quality and ensure a high-quality environment.

**ADOPTED:** July 19, 2023  
Adam Marchand  
Acting Chair

**ATTEST:**  Signed by: July 25, 2023 | 10:57 AM EDT  
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Laura E Brown  
Executive Director, City Plan Department