NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Authorizing the Mayor of the City of New Haven to execute encroachment permits, maintenance agreements, and other paperwork for two existing public murals on State Department of Transportation underpasses along State Street, in accordance with the 2019 DOT Public Art Policy. (Submitted by: Alder Roth, Alder Festa, Alder Cupo, and Alder Decker)

REPORT: **1567-09**
ADVICE: **Approve**

BACKGROUND

The State Department of Transportation released "Guidelines for Aesthetic Objects and Treatments within CTDOT ROW" in late 2019 to streamline the process for permitting public art on underpasses and other infrastructure. Two existing murals are on DOT I-91 underpasses in New Haven, one on Humphrey by State Street and one on State Street by Warren Street. For these existing murals, third parties currently hold reserves to pay for mural maintenance and have been responsive to the City's requests for upkeep. The two existing murals - under I-91 at Humphrey Street and Warren Street - were designed to celebrate and connect their neighborhoods, which were separated by the barrier that an underpass creates. Each was installed with substantial community engagement, the appropriate insurance, and plans for ongoing maintenance - but not the multi-year maintenance agreements that the state DOT now requires.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Bringing two existing murals into agreement with state policies, in accordance to the "Guidelines for Aesthetic Objects and Treatments within CTDOT ROW" released by Connecticut Department of Transportation in late 2019 complies with the City's Comprehensive Plan:

> **New Haven Vision 2025, Section V-12(c)**:
>
> "Promote safe, efficient, reliable, and accessible public transit system throughout the city to connect residents to jobs, services, and their community. **Consider placemaking as a strategy beyond traffic for transportation improvements…"**

ADVICE

The Commission finds the Order in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: March 25, 2020
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: Aïcha Woods
Aïcha Woods
Executive Director, City Plan Department