

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS designating the corner of Davenport Avenue and Asylum Street to "Rev. Bonita D. Grubbs Corner."

Submitted by: Executive Director of the Christian Community Action Agency

REPORT: 1657-12

ADVICE: Approval, with recommendations

BACKGROUND

This request comes from the Board of Alders regarding an ordinance to designate the corner of Davenport Avenue and Asylum Street to "Rev. Bonita D. Grubbs Corner." 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."**

Neighbors and supporters of Christian Community Action, Inc. have submitted a petition to the Board of Alders to rename the SE corner of Davenport Avenue and Asylum Street to honor Rev. Bonita D. Grubbs, recognizing her 35-year legacy of leading CCA and providing "Help, Housing, and Hope" to those in need in New Haven.

As Executive Director of CCA from 1998 through 2023, Rev. Grubbs has overseen the expansion of CCA's programs to bring dignified, person-centered assistance and care to families, senior citizens, and individuals with disabilities. In that time, countless hundreds of families and individuals have had their lives improved and their burdens lightened by the work of Rev. Bonita Grubbs and the generations of staff and volunteers she has inspired.

A petition, in English and Spanish, with at least two hundred and fifty signatures has been submitted. A document showing the wording of the proposed sign was provided, however the accompanying photo of the sign's proposed location shows a Davenport Avenue – Ward Street corner rather than a Davenport Avenue – Asylum Street corner. A site plan has not 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.
- Honors a community leader who made great contributions to her neighborhood and supported families, seniors, and people with disabilities in New Haven.

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:

- (i) Plan of the site of the proposed location indicating all structures and street features as well as a photo of the sign location on the appropriate street corner for review by the city.

ADOPTED: October 23, 2024
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST: _____
Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department