

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** authorizing the City of New Haven to apply for and accept a grant from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for \$200,000.00 to support the environmental investigation of properties at 181 Russell Street and 201 Russell Street New Haven for potential redevelopment.

Submitted by: Economic Development Administrator

REPORT: **1661-02**

ADVICE: **Approve**

BACKGROUND

The City of New Haven is seeking to help facilitate a potential redevelopment at those adjacent properties known as 181 Russell Street and 201 Russell Street, consisting of approximately 17.33 acres, through application to the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for Environmental assessment grant funding.

The Site is highly contaminated, primarily through the operation of the Coppola Scrap Yard which operated from 1967-1989. Since then, the Site has remained difficult to put back to productive use. As it is now one of the city's longstanding underutilized areas, the city is interested in exploring options for redevelopment of the site.

Although a preliminary environmental assessment has indicated that contamination exists at the site, a supplemental environmental assessment is required to determine the extent of contamination, and whether remediation may be necessary to proceed with potential redevelopment.

HRP Environmental, the environmental consultant for the Site, has estimated the additional investigation would cost approximately \$200,000.

DECD offers municipalities funding through its Municipal Brownfields Redemption Grant Program for such purposes. The approval by the Board of Alders to apply for and accept grant funds from DECD would allow the City to conduct the additional investigation.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This grant proposal is aligned with the City comprehensive plan from the standpoint of:

- Creating compatible land use development with the character of the surrounding area;
- Creating jobs;
- Clean and protect environmentally sensitive areas;
- Reduce brownfields within the City;
- Encourage environmental justice;
- Increase economic activity;
- Increase the tax base;

The proposal further aligns with the State of Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development's goals of:

- Helping to eliminate brownfield properties by promoting smart growth principles;

ADVICE

Authorization of this grant application aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan and the State of Connecticut's goals.

ADOPTED: January 15, 2025
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST: DocuSigned by: Laura E. Brown January 17, 2025 | 1:46 P
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Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department