

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS designating the corner of Grand Avenue and Murphy Drive “Malik Jones Corner” in perpetuity, for his love and commitment to residents in the Fair Haven neighborhood

Submitted by: Ellen Cupo, Ward 8

REPORT: 1650-10

ADVICE: Approve with conditions.

BACKGROUND

This request comes from the Board of Alders regarding an ordinance to designate the corner of Grand Avenue and Murphy Street as “Malik Jones Corner” in memory of a deceased individual and a beloved member of our community. 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.”**

On April 14, 1997, Malik Jones was chased by an East Haven, Connecticut police officer through New Haven, to a location one block from his home. The officer ran up to Malik’s car, smashed the window, and shot Malik several times, killing him. Mr. Jones was unarmed and had committed no crime.

His mother Emma Jones pursued the case in court however the officer was not indicted by a grand jury. Ms. Jones later won a verdict against the Town of East Haven and the officer when a jury ruled the officer’s actions had violated her son’s civil rights. Through her continued effort and influence Ms. Jones efforts led to the creation of a statewide racial profiling team, a no-chase law, and the City of New Haven’s Board of Alders passing an ordinance that created an independent Civilian Review board to investigate police misconduct. In a major step forward, the Civilian Review Board has subpoena power – the ability to legally require witnesses, including police officers, to testify or produce material evidence.

A petition of at least two hundred fifty (250) city resident signatures in favor of the proposed naming was 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

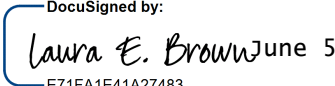
The proposal is aligned with the City’s Comprehensive Plan because it:

- Serves as a physical reminder and honoring of Malik Jones and the injustices that led to his murder.
- Honors a young person from New Haven who tragically lost his life to police brutality, and his mother, who fought for and won significant police reform efforts that combat racial injustice in the police system and make New Haven and Connecticut safer for everyone, particularly young Black men.

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 the proposed signage drawn to scale for review by the city.
- (ii) Proposed wording of the signage.
- (iii) Clarification of the location of the sign

ADOPTED: May 15, 2024
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST:  June 5, 2024 | 9:05
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Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department