

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN updating the processes for anti-blight.

Submitted by: Sinclair Williams, Assistant Corporation Counsel, LCI

REPORT: 1666-07

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

This request comes from Sinclair Williams, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Livable City Initiative (LCI).

The proposal will amend the City of New Haven's citation procedure for anti-blight violations to align with current state statutory requirements, including **1)** to allow for the citations to be served and enforced by first class mail or by email if an email has been provided to LCI and **2)** to increase penalties for violations to the maximum authorized by state statute.

The proposed amendment also proposes other minor clarifications to the process, the inclusion of accessory dwelling units, minor grammatical updates, and updates the language to accommodate gender neutrality.

HISTORY

The City of New Haven currently requires citations for anti-blight violations be sent by certified mail, which renders enforcement virtually impossible against property owners whose mailing address is a P.O. Box. State statute CGS Sec. 7-152c allows citations to be mailed by first class mail. By amending the housing code ordinance to align with state statute, the City will be better able to address blight in our communities by enforcing the anti-blight ordinance against property owners with a P.O. Box.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This amendment is aligned with the City of New Haven's goals to address blight and ensure property within the City is maintained for the purposes of public health, safety, and welfare.

ADVICE

Recommend approval.

ADOPTED: May 21, 2025
Ernest Pagan
Chair

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