

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS creating a working group regarding establishing Pedestrian Safety Zones in the city of New Haven.

Submitted by: Caroline Tanbee Smith, Ward 9 and Eli Sabin, Ward 7

REPORT: 1666-04

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

This request comes from Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith and Alder Eli Sabin. Said working group is proposed to include, but not be limited to, Alders, Engineering, Transportation Traffic and Parking, Corporation Counsel, New Haven Police Department, and other pertinent city departments as necessary.

HISTORY

In 2024, the Connecticut General Assembly passed State Statute § 14-307a which provides the ability for towns, cities, and/or boroughs to authorize the traffic authority the ability to establish Pedestrian Safety Zones. These zones can be established without approval from the Office of the State Traffic Administration given specific requirements are met (such as conducting an engineering study that recommends the establishment of such a zone), and can establish speed limits in those zones of no less than 20 miles per hour.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Pedestrian Safety Zones can enhance safety in areas with significant pedestrian activity. This aligns with the City's commitment to traffic safety and improved urban mobility. It also gives the City of New Haven more local control over streets, highways, bridges, and parking areas used by New Haven residents.

ADVICE

Recommend approval. The City Plan Department would welcome the opportunity to participate in the working group to ensure alignment with – and benefit from the significant community engagement conducted in service of – Vision 2034, New Haven's soon-to-be adopted 10-year Plan of Conversation and Development.

ADOPTED: May 21, 2025
Ernest Pagan
Chair

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