

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS designating the corner of Goffe Street and Webster Street as “Ricardo Torres Jr Way” in perpetuity to commemorate and honor the vibrant life of Ricardo Torres Jr to the people in the Dwight community and city-wide.

Submitted by: Alder Frank E Douglas Jr, Ward 2

REPORT: 1648-07

ADVICE: Approve with conditions.

BACKGROUND

This request comes from the Board of Alders regarding an ordinance to designate the corner of Goffe Street and Webster Street as “Ricardo Torres Jr Way” to honor his many contributions to the New Haven 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.”**

Mr. Ricardo Torres Jr was born in New Haven on November 11, 1990. Mr. Torres, also known as “Ricky”, is an inspiration to residents in the community, where he dedicated himself by pursuing his lifelong dream of becoming a firefighter since he was two years old. He was a loving husband to Mrs. Erica Martinez, and is the proud father of Oliver Torres and Crew Torres. He joined the New Haven Fire Department in July 2019 as a proud member of Recruit Class 62 and was assigned to Engine 6, Fourth Division, where he was revered for his camaraderie and dedication. On May 12, 2021, Firefighter Torres made the ultimate sacrifice while responding to a fire on Valley Street in New Haven, demonstrating exceptional courage and heroism in the line of duty. Firefighter Ricardo Torres, Jr. dedicated his life to the service of the New Haven community, exemplifying the highest ideals of bravery and sacrifice. The City of New Haven seeks to honor the memory and legacy of Firefighter Ricardo Torres, Jr., recognizing his service, sacrifice, and the profound impact he had on his fellow firefighters, family, and the community he served with distinction and love.

It is proposed, to honor Mr. Ricardo Torres Jr for his service, sacrifice, and profound impact on people in the Dwight Community and city-wide, that the corner of Goffe Street and Webster Street be designated as “Ricardo Torres Jr Way” in perpetuity, making his legacy in New Haven stand as an official and permanent reminder of courage, service and heroism in the line of duty.

A petition of at least two hundred fifty (250) city resident signatures in favor of the proposed naming has been submitted. A rendering of the proposed sign including wording has been provided.

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 kept New Haven residents safe through his bravery and service

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.

ADOPTED: March 20, 2024
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

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