

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ORDINANCE AMENDMENT to the Code of General Ordinances, Title III, Chapter 27 – Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Ways – Section 27- 154a procedure for requesting the Board of Alders to order improvements to an unaccepted street.

Submitted by: Chief Administrative Officer

REPORT: 1668-06

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

This proposed amendment will authorize the City to address long-standing infrastructure challenges on unaccepted streets, which are privately owned and currently fall outside the scope of municipal responsibility. New Haven has thirty-three such streets, many of which are in serious disrepair but remain ineligible for City-funded improvements due to the absence of a formal process.

The amendment establishes a clear and transparent procedure through which a majority of property owners on an unaccepted street may petition the Board of Alders to request improvements. Upon receiving a petition, the Board will review whether the proposed work serves the public interest. If approved, the City may carry out the improvement and assign a fair and proportional share of the cost to abutting property owners through a special assessment.

This ordinance provides the legal framework necessary for the City to respond where safety concerns are significant and private remedies have proven inadequate. It creates a structured path forward for residents who have long lacked a mechanism for coordinated action and municipal support.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This amendment is aligned with the City of New Haven’s goal of growing and maintaining its image through the repair of deteriorated infrastructure, including roadways. It establishes an oversight process by which landowners can partner with the city to improve private unaccepted streets in a manner amicable to both the city and owners of said streets.

ADVICE

Recommend approval.

ADOPTED: June 18, 2025
Ernest Pagan
Chair

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