

## NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

**RE: ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS** authorizing the City Plan Department to enter into a two-year multi-year contract with Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (FHI) for the purpose of completing Vision 2034, the City of New Haven's Plan of Conservation and Development also known as the Comprehensive Plan.

**Submitted by:** Laura Brown, Executive Director, City Plan

**REPORT:** 1652-10

**ADVICE:** Approve.

### BACKGROUND

The City Plan Department is requesting approval to enter into a two-year contract for FY 25/26 and FY 26/27 with Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (FHI) for the purpose of completing Vision 2034, the City of New Haven's Plan of Conservation and Development also known as the Comprehensive Plan.

The CoNH Plan of Conservation and Development must be renewed to meet State statutes every ten years. In 2023 City Plan elicited RFQs for the Communications and Outreach and Plan Development components of the planning process and interviewed candidates. The contract for both solicitations was awarded to FHI for the development of the plan in 2023 and we have completed one year of development toward the completion of the plan. These contracts were executed on September 1, 2023. (Communications and Engagement contract #: 2023-CON-0542, Plan Development contract #: 2023-CON-0415.)

The final plan document must be approved by the Board of Alders for submission to the State of Connecticut by the end of September 2025. **The City Plan Department is requesting a multi-year contract with Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. that will end December 2025.** More information about the plan may be found at <https://newhavenvision2034.com/>

The Plan Development and Communications and Engagement contracts are scoped to include significant community engagement through workshops, policy co-creation teams, and resident "community navigators" and shape it into a vision of the City's goals for the next 10 years. Included in the scopes are required sections on topics such as planning for sea level rise and climate change, housing affordability, environmental planning, transportation issues, among others. The process is being funded through \$500,000 in On-Call Bond Funds previously approved for completion of the plan.

### PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

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, [grant funding], 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.
- The City’s Comprehensive Plan states that **“The Plan update is necessary to both meet state statute requirements and to take a proactive and unified approach to guide future development and infrastructure investments within the city over the next decade through necessary changes to the City’s physical development policies and land use regulations.”** While this refers to the 2015 plan update (Vision 2025), the requirement and importance of the plan continues to apply to Vision 2034. This multi-year contract will allow the city to expand its capacity with an expert consultant team, and deliver a stellar plan, built on resident feedback, to guide development over the next ten years.

**ADVICE**

The proposal is aligned with the City’s Comprehensive Plan and should be approved.

**ADOPTED:** July 31, 2024  
Leslie Radcliffe  
Chair

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura E Brown  
Executive Director, City Plan Department