

## **NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT**

**RE:**            **A COMMUNICATION ADDRESSING** the “Public Safety Communication System Requirement,” concerning the installation of a radio-based communication system to enhance and guarantee coverage minimums for the Police and Fire radio communications systems throughout the City of New Haven.

**Submitted by:** Gerald Antunes, Former Alder of the 12 Ward

**REPORT: 1657-09**

**ADVICE:** Support for the requirements, with recommendations

### **BACKGROUND**

Alder Antunes has submitted this communication to the Board regarding proposed requirements designed to improve our radio-based public safety communications. These requirements would be part of a new ordinance, however at this time the ordinance has not been submitted. What is before the Board of Alders, and the City Plan Commission as a referral, is a communication regarding this potential new ordinance, so that Alders, Boards and Commissions, and city staff can review and provide comment.

The ordinance would require applicants for new buildings, additions, and renovations that meet a defined minimum threshold to fill out an “in-building radio application” and provide plans for the installation and operation of a radio based public safety communication system in the building at the time of application for a building permit.

The communication outlines requirements related to minimum signal strength, allowable system types, backup power, and testing, monitoring, inspection, and evaluation of the systems. There are also some requirements related to notifications of any changes to the system to the New Haven Public Safety Communications Center Director or Deputy Director.

This item was referred to the City Plan Commission because it will impact public, city-owned buildings in addition to privately-owned buildings. The purview of the City Plan Commission is to review this proposal for alignment with the city’s comprehensive plan.

### **PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**

The proposal aligns with the City’s Vision 2025 Comprehensive Plan because it furthers the city’s public safety and emergency response goals.

Planning staff recommend the following steps be taken prior to formal submission of the ordinance for adoption by the Board of Alders:

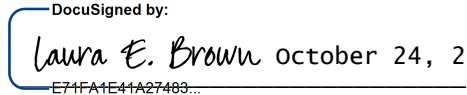
- Careful review of the ordinance text with the New Haven Public Safety Communications Center Director and Deputy Director, Building Official, Fire Marshal, City Engineer, and the Emergency Operations Director.
- Coordination between all the above-mentioned departments to finalize ordinance text and determine processes and protocols for enforcement.

- Ensure alignment with any related State and Fire Code requirements.
- Any installation of wireless communication devices associated with radio-based public safety communications must comply with Section 49 of the New Haven Zoning Ordinance on regulation of wireless communication. This Section has the following stated goals:
  - To accommodate the need for wireless communications antennas while regulating their location and number.
  - To minimize adverse visual effects of wireless communications antennas and antennas or wireless site towers through proper design, siting and vegetative screening.
  - To avoid potential damage to adjacent properties from antennas or wireless site towers and falling ice through their proper siting and engineering.
  - To encourage the joint use of any new antennas or wireless site tower.
  - To reduce the number of antennas or wireless site towers needed in the future.

**ADVICE**

The communication describes an effort that is generally in alignment with the public safety and emergency response goals of the city’s comprehensive plan. Additional review with relevant city departments, and development of internal departmental processes should occur prior to formal submittal of the ordinance.

**ADOPTED:** October 23, 2024  
Ernest Pagan  
Acting Chair

**ATTEST:**  DocuSigned by:  
*Laura E. Brown* October 24, 2024 | 1:22 PM EDT  
E71FA1E41A27483...  
Laura Brown  
Executive Director, City Plan Department