

**ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 13 OF THE NEW HAVEN CODE OF ORDINANCES
ESTABLISHING A VACANT BUILDING REGISTRATION PROGRAM AS PART OF THE FIRE CODE**

WHEREAS, Conn. General Statutes §7-148(c)(7) empowers the City of New Haven to regulate “the mode of using any buildings when such regulations seem expedient for the purpose of promoting the safety, health, morals and general welfare of the inhabitants of the municipality”;

WHEREAS, Chapter 13 of the New Haven Code of Ordinances Establishes a local Fire Code which “prescribe(s) regulations consistent with nationally recognized good practice for the safeguarding of life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion arising from the storage, handling and use or hazardous substances, materials and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life or property in the use and occupancy of structures and premises;” and

WHEREAS, numerous vacant buildings exist within the City of New Haven; and

WHEREAS, vacant buildings pose a potential hazard and are a risk for trespass, dangerous conditions and often arson or unintentional fire; and

WHEREAS, the New Haven Fire Department prepares assessments of hazards and plans to mitigate those hazards in the event of fire; and

WHEREAS, a vacant building registry will enable the cataloging and tracking of such potential hazards; and

WHEREAS, the vacant building registration fee will help to further encourage building owners to secure and upgrade vacant buildings; and

WHEREAS, the registration, assessment of hazard, securing and placarding of vacant buildings will improve safety for residents and firefighters alike;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that Chapter 13 of New Haven Code of Ordinances be amended as set forth in the attached.

