

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** of the City of New Haven authorizing the City of New Haven to apply for and accept funding through the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development's Innovation Cluster Program

Submitted by: Michael Piscitelli, AICP, Economic Development Administrator

REPORT: **1664-05**

ADVICE: **Approve**

BACKGROUND

Governor Ned Lamont and the DECD are making available up to \$100 million to support the growth of innovation clusters towards “the catalytic advancement of key economic sectors, including (but not limited to) biotechnology, financial services and technology, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, insurance services and technology, software development, artificial intelligence, quantum technology and advanced computing,” as set forth in the DECD RFI for the grant program.

There are three finalists selected to submit full applications, one in the New Haven region (the Quantum & Bioscience Cluster) and one each in the Stamford and Hartford regions. DECD has selected the following partners as part of our region's project team, QuantumCT, Yale University, UCONN, University of New Haven, Quinnipiac University, Cambridge Innovation Center, Ancora L&G, Winstanley Enterprises, Cure Rare Disease, BioCT and the City of New Haven.

As envisioned, the Quantum & Bioscience Cluster can be a globally competitive innovation district building on the state's life science infrastructure, solidifying the State of Connecticut's leadership in bioscience, and fostering growth in quantum technologies. The proposed cluster will focus on longstanding City priorities by completing the New Haven Downtown Crossing project and by adhering to inclusive growth, connecting residents to opportunities in emerging job sectors. This will include investments in workforce and cultural equity as well as new public infrastructure of promenades, bike and pedestrian paths, and streetscape enhancements, aligned with other projects including Union Square and the State Street Redesign.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed request to apply for funds through the state's DECD Innovation Cluster program supports the following goals from the Vision 2025 Comprehensive Plan:

Connect local workforce to local jobs by enhancing their skills through partnerships with workforce boards and educational institutions and preparing them for a technology-based economy predominant in the 21st century.

Promote training opportunities in advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and arts clusters, which are proven to be the strengths of the New Haven economy.

Grow awareness among local workforce about career prospects in advanced manufacturing sector (manufacturing of medical devices and biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and aerospace products) which continues to be a strong component of regional economy.

Build the missing infrastructure for enhancing the existing bicycle/pedestrian network within the city and facilitate enhanced use of transit through the implementation of sustainable land use, housing, transportation, and economic development strategies to improve air quality.

ADVICE

Recommend approval.

ADOPTED: April 16, 2025
Ernest Pagan
Chair

ATTEST: _____
Laura Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department