

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS** authorizing the City of New Haven to apply for and accept a grant from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development in the amount of \$8,769,517 for alterations and improvements to the Floyd Little Athletic Center at Hillhouse High School

Submitted by: Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator

REPORT: 1652-11

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND:

The New Haven Public Schools and the City of New Haven (the "City") have proposed to undertake the improvement of the Floyd Little Athletic Center ("FLAC") at Hillhouse High School located at 480 Sherman Parkway. Hillhouse, one of the oldest and largest comprehensive high schools in Connecticut, has a reputation for excellence in academics and athletics. The FLAC, centrally located in New Haven, is a premier destination for competitive activities; the construction of an improved FLAC is intended to transform it into a "best in class" destination for special events and sports, making it more suitable for youth sports, local events, and community building.

This grant award will cover a substantial proportion of the proposed renovation, currently estimated at \$8.8 million. Some of the proposed improvements include a new roof with a reset solar array, a new indoor track surface, bathroom renovations, interior paint work, parking lot and sidewalk repair, and renovations to the main office.

The Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development ("DECO") offers municipalities funding through its Urban Act Grant Program to address projects like the renovation of the FLAC. The approval of the City's Board of Alders to apply for and accept grant funds from this source at DECO will allow the City to perform the necessary renovations and assist in the creation of refurbished athletic facilities.

The City's Economic Development Administration therefore respectfully requests that the City's Board of Alders approve the accompanying resolution authorizing it to apply for and accept such a DECO grant.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The City of New Haven Comprehensive Plan **New Haven Vision 2025** states the following goals:

“Build an all-inclusive economy by encouraging neighborhood-based economic development initiatives that considers a neighborhood’s assets and opportunities and by supporting equitable distribution of resources (Sec. xxix)

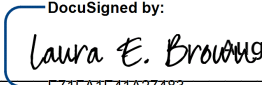
“The City will require a continued commitment to sustainable environmental policy and a systematic approach to energy efficiency and development of renewable energy resources to further improve air quality and ensure a high-quality environment.” (Sec. VII-17).

Overall, in pursuing grant funding opportunities for improvements to the Floyd Little Athletic Center, the Economic Development Administration, in partnership with New Haven Public Schools furthers the goals of the City’s Comprehensive plan.

ADVICE

Authorization of this grant aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan and the State of Connecticut's goals.

ADOPTED: July 31, 2024
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST:  August 1, 2024 | 10:57 AM EDT
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Laura Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department