

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS REQUESTING THE DESIGNATION OF GIRARD AVENUE, BETWEEN STUYVESANT AVENUE AND LEY STREET, AS A “RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONE.”

Submitted by: Salvatore DeCola, Alder, Ward 18

REPORT: 1668-07

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

This proposal will create a Residential Parking Zone on Girard Avenue between Stuyvesant Avenue and Ley Street in the East Shore neighborhood near Tweed-New Haven Airport. In accordance with Section 29-55(a) of Title III, Chapter 29, Article III, Division 1 of the City’s Code requires that, **“Upon petition thereto of the residents of a majority of the residences on a block, the board or aldermen [alders] may create a residential parking zone, which shall include, but not be limited to, that block from which said petition originated.”**



HISTORY

Tweed-New Haven Airport was opened in 1931 as New Haven Municipal Airport in an area that had already developed as a residential neighborhood. This area included Girard Avenue between Stuyvesant Avenue and Ley Street (terminating at Townsend Avenue to the West and Burr Street to the East). Over the years, residents in the neighborhood have been impacted both by air traffic, and by the parking needs of those traveling to and from New Haven through Tweed-New Haven Airport. Today, traffic in the neighborhood generated by the airport can at times create road congestion and prevent residents from leaving their driveways due to the narrowness of the roads and the volume of traffic. The traffic to and

from the airport is an ongoing area of attention for City departments. The lease and operating agreement between the City and Tweed outlines and anticipates the migration of parking from the west side to the east side of the airport footprint (less residential). In order to address these concerns Tweed- New Haven Airport has hired a dedicated community liaison to field concerns and relay them to appropriate Departments. This feedback and documentation from the Alder of the Ward have resulted in the identification and addition of a new residential parking zone.

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, 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 proposal.

The Board of Alders seeks guidance as to:

- Whether the proposal is aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The Vision 2025 Comprehensive Plan states that the city should:

- Maximize the assets and infrastructure with respect to the availability of parking on city streets.
- Enhance public safety, particularly for the city's most vulnerable users.

The Vision 2025 Plan Transportation Goals Stated "Promote safety and service improvements at Tweed New Haven airport as identified within their Master Plan Update (Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, 1999) and within the Freight Cargo Study (SCRCOG, 2014)" and Planning Considerations state "Tweed New Haven Airport is remarkably underused given the size of the local market. Efforts should be made to implement the capital program in a manner that protects nearby residents from undue hardship." Residential Parking Zones have been used throughout the city when pressures of institutional or commercial uses have created parking issues in residential areas. In 2022, the City Plan Commission recommended approval of a Residential Parking Zone for Fort Hale Road, also due to impacts of Tweed-New Haven airport (CPC Report 1598-10). For similar reasons the City Plan Commission recommended approval of a residential parking zone on Burr Street between Fort Hale Road and Hall Street (CPC Report 1664-10) and on Hyde Street between Fort Hale Road and Stuyvesant Avenue (CPC Report 1666-05).

ADVICE

Recommend approval.

The proposal is aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan and should be approved because it may:

- Improve quality of life and safety for residents of Girard Avenue.
- Enhance the City's transportation system.
- Encourage people to use mass transit to get around.

Also recommend effort to study all residential areas adjacent to Tweed and consider a comprehensive residential parking zone effort.

ADOPTED: June 18, 2025
Ernest Pagan
Chair

ATTEST: _____
Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department